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Iraq

Chemical weapons stockpiles are now being destroyed at a desert site northwest of Baghdad, according to U.N. inspection team leader Bernhard Brunner. AFP quotes Brunner as saying that most of the chemical weapons found have been transferred to Al-Muthanna, 80 miles from Baghdad, where U.N. experts have supervised the building of two incinerators to burn nerve gas and mustard gas. The plan calls for 140 tonnes of nerve gas to be destroyed within six months to a year.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Peace Talks, Cairo Visit

NC2809114392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has praised the support of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak for the Palestinian cause. He said the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations have not reached a deadlock, but are experiencing an impasse, which called for the United States to intervene a couple of times during the latest round of talks in Washington. 'Arafat said he officially asked President Mubarak to use his weight and influence to help the Palestinians get out of this impasse. He said Mubarak emphasized that Egypt is shouldering its full responsibility on the Palestine question and that he will hold the necessary contacts on this. 'Arafat stressed the importance of President Mubarak's call for inter-Arab reconciliation and Egypt's role in closing Arab ranks. He said he requested a meeting of all Arab foreign ministers in New York to discuss the developments of the peace negotiations. President 'Arafat made his statement to MENA Deputy Chief Editor Samir al-'Ajuz.

Asked about assertions by Syrian officials that there will be no peace with Israel unless it withdraws from the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, and southern Lebanon, 'Arafat said the Syrian officials, like the Palestinians, must have sensed that the Israeli plan seeks to normalize relations with Syria in particular without giving the Palestinians anything.

He asserted that the United States, being the world's leading country and eager for oil sources, will remain concerned about achieving Middle East peace after the U.S. elections.

'Arafat said he informed President Mubarak of the latest developments in the Washington negotiations and officially asked the President to help the Palestinians in view of his position and responsibilities.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke fine words during the election battle, but he made a U-turn on the Palestinian question after he assumed power. For example, 'Arafat explained, while Rabin blamed Yitzhaq Shamir for cheating the Israelis over the Palestinian delegation's relationship with the PLO, saying Shamir was trying to shut out the light with his hands, Rabin is now doing the same thing.

He said the head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks was "petrified" during the talks, prompting the Americans to intervene twice. Nevertheless, the impasse remained.

President 'Arafat accused the Israelis of rejecting the principles on the basis of which the peace process was launched, namely U.S. President George Bush's plan, which is based on a land-for-peace exchange and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This means an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the recognition of the legitimate Palestinian rights, 'Arafat said. This is evident in the letter of assurances and the invitation to the peace conference, but the Israeli delegation tried throughout the latest round of talks to bypass these principles and enter new labyrinths, he added.

It has become clear, president 'Arafat went on to say, that Rabin is seeking to normalize Israel's relations with the Arab countries at the expense of the Palestine question and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to exclude Jerusalem from the negotiations.

The Palestinian president said he asked President Mubarak, in view of his weight and influence, to intervene. "I came to burden you with Palestinian worries," 'Arafat said he told Mubarak. President Mubarak replied that Egypt shoulders its full responsibility for the Palestine question.

'Arafat said President Mubarak will hold the necessary contacts on this.

He said his talks with President Mubarak dealt with other subjects, including the situation in the occupied territories and Rabin's iron-fist policy against the Palestinian people and children and against Islamic and Christian beliefs.

He said the talks also touched on the Arab situation in general and the importance of the Egyptian role in closing Arab ranks.

On President Mubarak's call for a comprehensive reconciliation, 'Arafat said such reconciliation is possible. This is not the first crisis through which the Arab nation has passed, he explained, noting that the Arabs ignored all their differences before the 1967 war and met in Khartoum afterward.

President 'Arafat stressed that genuine Arab traditions will overcome all wounds and rifts in the unified Arab position. He said Egypt and president Mubarak bear a historical responsibility for achieving this.

The Palestinian president pointed out the constant meetings of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine, the latest being the meeting in New York. The purpose is to inform the ministers of the progress in the peace talks.

He said Palestine has asked for an expanded meeting of the Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. He expressed the hope that the meeting will take place in New York.

Asked about the impasse on the Palestinian-Israeli track in the negotiations and whether the other tracks are experiencing similar impasses, 'Arafat said Israel seeks to normalize relations with the Arab countries at the expense of the Palestinians. He expressed the hope that no Arab party will fall into the trap of the Israeli game.

Answering a question, 'Arafat said the Syrian officials, just like us, must sense the Israeli plan. He pointed out that recent Israeli media comments and Knesset discussions have made it clear that Rabin does not want to give anything to the Palestinians and that he wants normal relations with Syria in particular.

Asked about the impact of the U.S. elections on the peace negotiations and the likelihood of Washington losing interest in the issue of peace in the Middle East, the Palestinian president stressed that the United States is today the primary power in the region. Its control over oil sources, he said, dictates that it work for regional peace and stability.

'Arafat said there will be no regional peace or stability without the Palestinian people achieving their legitimate rights in line with international legitimacy. He added: We are not seeking the impossible. If anyone believes he can establish peace in the region this way, we tell him he cannot.

On U.S. provision of advanced military technology to Israel, 'Arafat said Rabin obtained two things from the United States: Some 10 billion dollars in loan guarantees and assurances that Israel will maintain military superiority in the region. This, 'Arafat said, shakes the credibility of the United States.

Asked about a recent statement by Rabin on a three-way confederation between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians, 'Arafat said Rabin is making new expressions and statements every day, but he acts differently on the ground. He explained that the Palestine National Council resolutions call for establishing an independent Palestinian state and for action toward a confederation between Palestine and Jordan through the free choice of the two peoples.

The Palestinian president noted that Rabin said in a statement published by MA'ARIV yesterday that he will move with the Arab countries, especially Syria, and that the Palestinians should not miss opportunities. 'Arafat said: I am telling Rabin that Israel should not miss the chance for peace because peace can be created only with the Palestinians first, given that the Palestine question is the essence of the conflict in the region. As a former military man and a current prime minister, Rabin knows this very well.

'Arafat concluded: The ones who wasted the chances for peace were Israel's leaders, who have launched six wars since 1948, unless they want capitulation, not peace.

Comments on Israeli Intentions

PM2809151092 Paris LE MONDE in French 27-28 Sep 92 p 4

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Philippe Bernard in Tunis on 24 September]

[Text] Tunis—The improvement in Israeli-Syrian dialogue during the sixth session of peace negotiations, which has just ended in Washington, worries the PLO. The Palestinian organization fears that it will suffer as a result of a separate peace, whereas the discussions it has started with Israel seem to have made little progress. Yasir 'Arafat expressed these fears in the interview he granted to LE MONDE and to three other French newspapers in Tunis on Thursday 24 September after receiving a delegation from the Muslim Socialists Circle.

"Do you want peace or capitulation?" This question sums up the PLO leader's bitterness after the end of the new series of Israeli-Arab bilateral negotiations. In his view, these talks "have ended in deadlock" because Israel is "the only state in the world, created by a UN decision, that does not respect UN decisions," in this case "Resolution 242, which is applicable to the Palestinians." "The Israelis refuse to accept that the West Bank and Gaza are occupied territories," he stressed. He accuses the Western countries of "looking at that from a distance" at a time when, according to him, the fundamental principle of the current discussions—"peace for land"—is being flouted.

Mr. 'Arafat dismissed both Yitzhaq Rabin and his predecessor. He is angry about the Israeli prime minister's decision to postpone the reform—announced before the recent parliamentary elections—of the antiterrorist law that imposes a mandatory prison sentence on any citizen having contacts with the PLO. "Can a leader who betrays his people in this way be honest with us?" Mr. 'Arafat asked.

The Camp David Precedent

"Mr. Rabin is now envisaging making peace with the Syrians, after basing his election campaign on the promise of making peace with the Arabs, and particularly the Palestinians," the PLO leader said. "Can such an attitude lead to peace? Carter, al-Sadat, and Begin reached the Camp David agreements. Did that bring peace to the region? And what has become of the Palestinian people's political and national rights? And they are going to repeat Camp David!" Mr. 'Arafat then exclaimed: "We are not the American Indians. There are 7 million Palestinians. We cannot be exterminated." And yet, Palestinians and Israelis are continuing to negotiate a provisional autonomy status for the West Bank and Gaza. "It is true," he admitted, "so far the Palestinian leadership's decision is that the negotiations continue. At the beginning of October, the Palestinian Central Council will be asked to debate the situation." Mr. 'Arafat said he is "very proud" of his negotiators. "They have represented Palestine very well. Moreover, they all clearly say they belong to the PLO delegation," he said. "During the latest session they came to report to me three times and to get instructions from me. I have a direct line so that I can talk with them at any time."

The "Fanatical Muslims"

"I accept for Palestinian territory what the Israelis are proposing for Syrian territory," the PLO leader stressed,

"because why should they apply Resolution 242 to the Golan Heights and not to the occupied territories? Rabin has just told his compatriots: 'Do not imagine that the Arabs will give you peace without getting something in return. They will give peace for land. That is clear.'"

Does he think it is possible to reach agreement on the question of the status of the occupied territories by 1 November, as originally planned? "This point is the responsibility of the European countries and the UN Security Council," Mr. 'Arafat replied, clearly blaming the opposite camp for the deadlock in the negotiations. "The Israelis have several channels of negotiation—Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese. They do not want to pursue the Palestinian channel," he explained. "They are trying to cause splits within the Arab delegations, but there will be no peace, stability, security, or negotiated solution while this confusion reigns."

For the benefit of the Western countries, the PLO leader pointed to the Palestinian Islamic fundamentalists, who are opposed to the peace talks, as the new Near East troublemakers. "The fanatical Islamic groups are financed by the Gulf countries, and now by the Iranians," he said. "If peace is not achieved, they will have a pretext for spreading not only in Palestine, but in all the Arab countries. That would lead to complete chaos in the region!" Could the EC form a model of organization for a pacified Near East? The PLO leader thinks that "it all depends on whether Israel wishes to be in the forefront of a future federation or to be excluded from it."

Transfer of Authority Reportedly To Begin 30 Oct

LD2809130692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Amman, 28 Sep (KUNA)—According to a special report received by KUNA, measures are being taken at present for the transfer of authority from Israel to the Palestinians in the occupied territory. The measures will be put into effect on 30 October this year and last until 30 October 1997.

The report affirms that the Palestinians are wary of receiving authority from the Israelis directly and are seeking a third party with an international character to act as a go-between in the transfer of the Palestinian institutions and departments in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians.

The report refers to an important meeting held recently in Vienna between a high-level Palestinian delegation, led by Yasir 'Amr, PLO Executive Committee member and head of its Higher Education Department, and UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] High Commissioner Ilter Turkmen.

During this meeting, the two sides agreed to form a joint committee for coordination and cooperation covering all aspects of UNRWA's work, which includes health, education, social affairs, etc.

This is the first direct contact channel between the UNRWA and the PLO since the occupation of Palestine in 1948. The PLO has welcomed cooperation with UNRWA in the field of education and the building of education institutions in a manner compatible with the peace process.

The report affirms that the PLO has asked UNRWA to expand and develop its educational services so as to keep up with the current political and other developments and to help in the drawing up of a Palestinian curriculum through a working paper to be prepared by UNESCO in this regard.

During the Vienna meeting, the Palestinians asked UNRWA to extend its services to beyond the framework of the Palestinian camps, to develop the Teachers' Institute at Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, and to offer university services for a period of four years in order to produce qualified teachers, particularly as UNRWA has qualified Palestinians in all fields of education.

The report says that the UNRWA high commissioner welcomed cooperation and coordination with the quarters concerned to meet all the needs of the Palestinian people during the coming phase. UNRWA also welcomed the idea of acting as the third party in the case of a peaceful Middle East settlement being reached, and it affirmed the need for coordination in this respect with the UN secretary general and for the Palestinian quarters concerned to coordinate with him, too. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Al-Baz, PLO Officials Comment on Peace Talks

NC2809150092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that the Arab side hopes Israel will do its duty and respond to the positive Arab stands now that the Arab parties have declared their readiness to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace and their desire to sign peace agreements.

Al-Baz was speaking after a meeting today with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin; PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman; and Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

Dr. al-Baz asserted that the Arab side has done everything possible to pave the way for a comprehensive peace based on UN Security Council Resolution 242, which applies to all the parties without exception, with particular emphasis on its Palestinian section.

In his statement, Dr. al-Baz pointed out that his meeting with the Palestinian officials today complements the talks held yesterday between President Mubarak and visiting Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. He explained that the meeting assessed the bilateral and multilateral peace talks in an effort to determine the best approach to making concrete progress in the next round of talks.

He said that the preliminary assessment of the previous rounds revealed positive aspects as well as negative aspects that the Arab side wished would not emerge.

He said the conclusion reached at the end of the meeting is that all parties should commit themselves to serious action aimed at finding a settlement, because, "We are past the stage of declaring intentions, and every party has already put forward its views and visions of the bases of a settlement on the various fronts, so that a comprehensive settlement can be worked out all at once."

Dr. al-Baz continued: We also concluded that coordination among all the parties concerned is an imperative and indispensable element to boost negotiations and make them produce the desired result in the next few months.

In a statement after the meeting, Mahmud 'Abbas hoped serious negotiations would start to focus on essential points rather than overindulge in side issues. He said the Arab parties fully agree on continuing coordination under the slogan of "a just and lasting solution on all the Arab fronts."

'Abbas said the last round of talks showed that negotiations will continue and that the parties involved have started to speak up and put forward plans and working papers. He noted that this might produce results in the next rounds.

Speaking about Israel's security, 'Abbas said: "We believe that security is not a simple issue, and we admit that it is necessary for both Israel and the Arabs." He added: If Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that security is important for him, it is equally important for us; we are prepared to discuss it in all objectivity.

Commenting on this, Dr. al-Baz said: "It is time to renounce the equation that puts security on one side and peace on the other, because peace is the target everyone seeks."

Dr. al-Baz added: "The concept that puts security and peace on opposite sides of the equation is wrong and we believe the new mentality should renounce it."

Al-Baz was asked whether the Palestinians fear a Syrian-Israeli agreement. He said: There is no Palestinian fear that Syria might sign a bilateral agreement with Israel, because all indications are that Arab actions will be coordinated.

He added that there is an Arab commitment to this, and that there is talk now about Israel's desire to make progress along one track and slow down on the other. "We find fault with this approach and criticize Israel for it, because progress should proceed in parallel on all the tracks."

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that there is no [word indistinct] on making progress along the Syrian and Palestinian tracks, because progress along any one track is bound to enhance progress on the other. He hoped the difficulties would be overcome in the next round of negotiations.

Asked whether he has plans to visit Israel, Dr. al-Baz remarked that such a visit depends on its benefit to negotiations and to the peace process. He added that Egypt hopes the Israeli side will reformulate its stand concerning the basic points of the settlement with the Palestinian side.

Al-Baz continued: We are proceeding with phased steps which should be taken under a certain umbrella rather than at random, so that they will can lead to a further step. He added: We hope the two sides and the other parties concerned will reach a consensus on the need to reach a final solution.

Touching on the anniversary of the restoration of Tabah, which will be commemorated tomorrow, and the lessons deduced from it, al- Baz said the occasion shows that one can achieve his full rights through determination to reach a certain goal, patience, abandoning desperation, and self-confidence. We believed that we were right and the Arab parties can take lessons from this precedent, he said.

PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman made a statement in which he asserted that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo

demonstrated Egyptian- Palestinian coordination and showed the active Egyptian role in serving the Arab cause and the Palestinian problem. He remarked that brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reiterated this yesterday and that President Mubarak welcomed it.

'Amr Musa on Peace Talks, Iran's Policy on Islands

NC2809213392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the annual meeting of the Arab League foreign ministers, which will held in New York later tonight, will review the main articles on the agenda of the UN General Assembly's 47th session, foremost being the significant Arab issues and the outcome of the recent Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo.

In statements upon his arrival in New York this evening, the foreign minister described the recent Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo as a turning point that could be the sound start for a healthy Arab world.

Regarding Abu Musa Island, 'Amr Musa stressed that Egypt rejects Iran's policy toward any Arab island. He said that even if Iran has any claims over these islands, these should have been made within the framework of peaceful negotiations and international law. He noted that the Gulf suffered twice as a result of two bitter wars. Hence, Egypt calls for alleviating tension in the region. He said it behooves Iran, as a fraternal state, to show an interest in preserving the good relations with the region's states.

Touching on the peace talks, the foreign minister reiterated Egypt's principled stand that negotiations should be based on the land for peace principle.

On why Syria and Lebanon have so far not participated in the multilateral negotiations, 'Amr Musa said that although Egypt would have preferred that the two countries participated in these negotiations, it has at the same time understood Syria's explanation that it will not participate unless progress has been made in the bilateral talks.

Commenting on the outcome of the peace negotiations, the foreign minister said that these negotiations, although moving slowly, are giving rise to optimism. He added: We must expect these negotiations to succeed, regardless of what will happen. In this regard, he said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has demonstrated good signs concerning Israel's readiness to negotiate on the basis of the land for peace principle. He pointed out that his recent talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres have given some degree of optimism for possible success of the peace talks.

On the Damascus Declaration, the foreign minister said this declaration provides a good opportunity for holding bilateral agreements between the region's states and any other state. He added that the door is open for concluding economic agreements. The foreign minister expressed the conviction that the implementation of the Damascus Declaration will be long-term.

'Amr Musa is expected to leave for Washington at the end of the foreign ministers' meeting later tonight. The foreign minister's talks with the U.S. officials and congressional members will deal with the relations between Egypt and the United States, as well as with the Middle East peace process.

Terrorists Said Linked to Afghanistan's Hekmatyar

NC2809113492 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Sep 92 p 16

[From "AL-AKHBAR's Memoirs" column by Wajih Abu-Dhikra]

[Excerpt] When the Afghan mujahidin controlled a large part of Afghanistan, they needed extensive financial support to set up an army to march on Kabul. Golboddin Hekmatyar chose to cultivate and import drugs to the Middle East and Europe and use the profits to purchase arms and ammunition and finance the mujahidin army. He expanded the cultivation of poppies, from which opium is produced. After obtaining huge profits from the opium, he set up a drug processing facility, primarily for heroin.

These drugs are smuggled from Afghanistan into Pakistan under strict security and then into the Middle East and Europe. Pakistan, although it has an antinarcotics ministry, has been unable to prevent the shipment of Afghan narcotics from its ports.

Hekmatyar tried to use Sinai as a transit route for distributing drugs, especially heroin, to other countries. Unfortunately for him, the first ship laden with drugs, the (Revi Star), fell into the hands of Egyptian antinarcotics personnel. These personnel were unable to find out the identity of Hekmatyar's agents in Sinai because the Israeli Navy intervened at the Gulf of Aqaba while the ship was under surveillance by the Egyptian antinarcotics squad. This raises a big question about the Israeli Navy's connection with Hekmatyar's drugs.

The question now is: What is Golboddin Hekmatyar's relationship with the terrorist groups formed in the name of Islam?

Iran has agreed with him to train members of these groups in the Afghan territory under his control so that upon completion of their training, they can return to their countries to carry out political assassinations and other terrorist acts.

Hekmatyar has set up liaison offices in the Pakistani city of Peshawar with the initial task of receiving Arab volunteers into the ranks of the Afghan resistance. These offices are headed by leaders of the Islamic Jihad groups from Egypt. Hekmatyar also set up a training center for

members of these groups near that city in addition to other camps inside Afghanistan. These offices and camps house people from Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Algeria, and Jordan. Plans are drawn up in these camps to topple Arab regimes and bring them under these groups' control. These offices also publish books and pamphlets heralding the imminent control of all Arab regimes by these groups.

Hekmatyar spends the heroin, opium, and hashish revenues lavishly on these offices for training, planning, and arms smuggling. He also allocates the drug revenues as financial support for fundamentalist terrorist groups in numerous Arab and Islamic countries. The financial support which these groups receive from drug revenues is regarded a primary source of support for them. These groups also receive aid from the Muslim Brotherhood groups which have used West Germany as their headquarters since fleeing 'Abd-al-Nasir's rule in the 1950's and 60's.

Therefore, I believe it is necessary to contact the Pakistani Government and ask them to close down the offices of aggression against Egypt and Arab and Islamic countries and to contribute to international efforts to halt Hekmatyar's drug trafficking.

If only the Arab countries would help the Kabul government extend its control over all of Afghanistan and expel the "struggler" international drug trafficker Golboddin Hekmatyar. If only we kept our eyes on the offices of aggression in that Pakistani city. [passage omitted]

Sudan Said Asking for Halt to Measures in Hala'ib

NC2809172492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Sep 92 p 1

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report]

[Text] Sudanese diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that Sudan has officially asked the Egyptian Government to stop all unilateral measures in the border area of Hala'ib. The sources indicated that Sudan has not yet received an Egyptian response to this request, and said that Egypt has recently increased the number of its forces which have been stationed in the Hala'ib area since the outbreak of the crisis in 1957. The sources claimed that Sudan keeps a limited police force inside the city, which is inhabited by Sudanese. They added that the outcome of the measures to "Egyptianize" Hala'ib depends on the positions of the Sudanese citizens in the area.

The sources said that there is an agreement in principle between Cairo and Khartoum to hold the next meeting of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee on 1 October in Cairo. They added that this agreement was reached during a visit to Cairo by Muhammad 'Ali 'Uthman, first under secretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry. The sources noted that Sudan has prepared all the studies, documents, and information about its views on the problem.

The Sudanese Government has asked the Egyptian authorities to intervene to stop the fierce media campaigns against Khartoum and prepare the suitable atmosphere for solving the existing problems between the two countries. Khartoum affirmed to Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq that halting the media campaigns will contribute to settling all the outstanding problems between the two countries. The sources said that Sudan currently is working to ease the existing tension.

Al-Jihad Member Arrested at Airport

NC2809161592 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 24 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Safwat 'Abd-al-Jawad]

[Text] Bani Suwayf—After an intensive search, the security forces managed to capture a leading official of the al-Jihad organization in Bani Suwayf prior to his escape to an Arab country via Cairo airport.

The al-Jihad member has been at large since April. He engineered the acts of violence in al-Shadir mosque, which left four fundamentalists dead and two policemen injured.

Libya

Al-Qadhdadfi Seen Moving To End Isolation

PM2809122792 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Unattributed report: "After Qadhdhaf-al-Damm's Talks With U.S. Officials, Libya Agrees To Commit Its Oil to U.S. Companies"]

[Text] Washington, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Well-informed Libyan sources have revealed that Libya has agreed to the two most important U.S. demands for the sake of achieving a settlement of its crisis with the Western states relating to the blowing up of the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1989.

The two demands are the handover of all the security files of the movements and individuals accused by Washington of terrorism. The second is Libya's commitment to directing all its oil affairs through U.S. oil companies, a demand that Tripoli has welcomed strongly and noticeably. The well-informed sources based their information on a secret meeting held last month between U.S. officials and Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm (Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's cousin), in addition to efforts made by Muhammad Abu-al-Qasim al-Zuwayy, coordinator of Libyan relations in Rabat.

The sources say that these efforts also led Col. al-Qadhdhafi to reach an outcome with which he could hasten to hand over the suspects in the Lockerbie incident as well as those involved in other terrorist incidents.

On the basis of this outcome Libya also has agreed to expel 60 officials from a list of 73 people accused by the United States of encouraging and sponsoring terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Government has rewarded Britain for its initiative to make contacts with Libya by raising the volume of trade exchange and oil projects with Britain to $8 billion. The Libyan side has actually started to carry out its commitments in this connection.

A contract for a 12,000-megawatt power station was awarded last month to the Korean company Hyundai at a value of $1.5 billion, on the basis that spare parts and raw material are imported from Germany, but the company was surprised last week by the request for a urgent meeting with some senior officials who had nothing to do with the contract in question. The company was requested to transfer all its contracts to Britain. The company agreed, in return for a $200-million increase in the value of the contract, and discussion of the issue of compensation, which could finally reach some $9 billion, also has been compeleted. Al-Qadhdhafi's recent speech was an indication of an imminent halt to the great man-made river project, and his annoucement that the state budget could not pay the salaries was evidence that enormous sums will be allocated to pay the compensation.

Meanwhile, SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that extensive working sessions currently are being held between Libyan and Egyptian officials in the city of Marsa Matruh on the Egyptian-Libyan border to draw up the final arrangements for turning over the Libyan suspects to British authorities. The Libyan delegation to the talks comprises Justice Minister Ibrahim Bakkar and Musa Kusa, official in charge of external liaison and one of those involved in similar terrorist incidents.

And well-informed Libyan sources say that Col. al-Qadhdhafi, who is worried about the effects of the handover on his personal position, recently has reached the conviction that the handover is necessary. This conviction is the result of continued efforts conducted by Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's office for political affairs, which Libyan officials describe as sincere efforts for the sake of resolving the crisis in an honorable way for Col. al-Qadhdhafi.

Government Reportedly Agrees to Inspection

LD2709223192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Libya today announced its readiness to agree to an inspection by any international body of its installations that are suspected of involvement in manufacturing chemical and biological weapons.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi, Yemeni Officials Open Border Talks

NC2909103592 Paris AFP in English 0935 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 29 (AFP)—Saudi and Yemeni military and legal officials opened talks here Tuesday on their wide-ranging border dispute, Yemeni diplomatic sources said.

The negotiations, initially on procedural questions, were initially set to open Monday but delayed because of the late arrival of the Yemeni delegation in the Saudi capital.

The Saudi team was headed by Matlab Nifisah, legal adviser to the royal court, and the Yemeni delegation of legal and military officials was led by Ja'far Sa'id Saleh, deputy head of the presidential office.

Yemen's President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said Sunday his country was determined to seek an "amicable" arrangement with its neighbour to end their dispute, notably over the oil-rich provinces of Najran, Jizan and 'Asir.

"There is a will in both countries to resolve the conflict and Yemen wishes to find an amicable agreement," Salih said.

The two sides signed an agreement in 1934 stipulating the three provinces belonged to Saudi Arabia. But Sanaa refuses to extend the agreement, which was renewed in 1974, and says it expires this month.

They are also in dispute over a desert region between Saudi Arabia and southern Yemen, where the border has never been formally delineated.

Tensions mounted after Riyadh accused Sanaa of siding with Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis and it imposed curbs on Yemeni residents that sparked the exodus of around one million Yemeni workers.

Salih said the meeting would map out the "mechanism for a solution to the conflict," adding that a definitive text to demarcate the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia "will be signed soon."

Yemen has called for the negotiations between the two sides to alternate between Riyadh and Sanaa.

United Arab Emirates

Talks With Iran on Abu Musa Island Continue

Iran Blamed for Lack of Progress

JN2909072492 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has issued the following statement:

Proceeding from the UAE's desire to discuss and settle all issues related to the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued occupation of the islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek and its violations of the memorandum of understanding signed in November 1971 on the island of Abu Musa, a UAE delegation led by His Excellency Ambassador Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, director of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Arabian Gulf States Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, and a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by His Excellency Ambassador Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani, director general of the Gulf Affairs Directorate at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, held bilateral meetings in Abu Dhabi on 27 and 28 September 1992.

During these meetings, the UAE delegation presented the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the following demands:

1. Ending the military occupation of the islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek.

2. Emphasizing Iran's commitment to the 1971 memorandum of understanding on the island of Abu Musa.

3. Refraining from interfering in any way and under any circumstances or pretexts in the UAE's exercise of its full sovereignty over its portion of the island of Abu Musa in accordance with the memorandum of understanding.

4. Canceling all arrangements and measures imposed by Iran on the state organs on the island of Abu Musa, the state citizens, and the non-UAE residents.

5. Finding an appropriate framework to resolve the issue of sovereignty over the island of Abu Musa within a definite period of time.

In view of the Iranian side's insistence on refusing to discuss the issue of ending the Iranian occupation of the islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek or to agree on referring the issue to the International Court of Justice, it has become impossible to continue to discuss the issue and other subjects in this meeting.

The UAE would like to point out in this regard that it has maintained sovereignty over Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek since early history and the Iranian military occupation of the two islands in November 1971 will not change their legal status. International law confirms that forcible occupation does not grant the occupying state sovereignty over an occupied region no matter how long this occupation lasts.

The UAE believes the Iranian side is responsible for not achieving any progress in the talks. As a result of this, the UAE has no choice but to resort to all available peaceful means to assert its sovereignty over the three islands.

Third Round Begins

NC2809201192 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 28 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) turned up the heat Monday in its dispute with Tehran over three strategic Gulf islands by calling for an Iranian withdrawal.

The two sides held a third round of talks here after a break during which the Iranians consulted Tehran on the UAE demand, a source close to the negotiations said.

"It was not immediately clear what their response was," the source said.

During the second round earlier Monday, the UAE delegation presented a memorandum in which it demanded that Iran withdraw from the islands of Abu Musa, and Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek.

Although an Iranian source said a pullout was out of the question, other sources close to the talks which opened Sunday said the atmosphere at the third round was serious.

"You can say real negotiations have started. I don't know when they will finish or if they will hold more rounds tomorrow. It all depends on this round," one source told AFP.

In Iran, around 600 Moslem fundamentalist demonstrators from Tehran university held a rally Monday outside parliament to insist Abu Musa must "belong forever to the Islamic republic."

The dispute, which erupted this year after Iran imposed its own entry visa restrictions on Abu Musa, has marred the strong ties between the UAE and its giant neighbour and threatened the oil-rich region with another crisis.

The UAE emirate of Sharjah and Iran had previously shared the island under a British-sponsored agreement signed in 1971. Iranian troops occupied the islands after the fellow emirate of Ra's al- Khaymah refused to sign a similar accord.

The islands command access to the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the only outlet from the Gulf.

Buoyed by support from the Arab League and fellow Gulf Arab states, the UAE could resort to the United Nations if Iran refuses to withdraw, informed sources said.

Iran has accused Western states of triggering the crisis to gain a stronger foothold in the region and cited security concerns for its measures on Abu Musa, where most of the 700 Arab residents have left.

Third Round Ends

NC2909061692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The third round of talks between Iranian and United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Ministry officials has ended. During the talks, the two countries' delegations exchanged views on the agenda and agreed on several points.

The Iranian delegation stressed that Tehran is ready to continue the talks to solve all the details in connection with Abu Musa island within the framework of past agreements.

REUTER reports from Abu Dhabi that WAM, citing UAE officials, has stated that the UAE also wants discussions on Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek islands.

Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani, who is heading our delegation to the talks, told correspondents in an interview afterward that Iran is ready for talks only on Abu Musa and that Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek, basically, are not on the agenda. The director general for Persian Gulf affairs at our Foreign Ministry added: It was decided that political delegations from both countries would follow up on the issues in Tehran and in Abu Dhabi to achieve a common framework on the points discussed and on the agenda of the upcoming talks in Tehran.

Talks Called 'Successful'

LD2909093992 Tehran IRNA in English 0651 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 29, IRNA—Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the end of their third round of talks here Monday night agreed to follow up the negotiations on the Iranian Persian Gulf island of 'Abu Musa' in Tehran. Director General of the Persian Gulf Affairs Department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani and his UAE counterpart Sayf Sa'id led the two political delegations to the talks.

Putting emphasis on cementing bilateral relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries, the Iranian and UAE delegations exchanged views on formulation of an agenda for the Tehran talks. Agreements were reached on the major part of the agenda. Ha'eri-Fumani voiced Tehran's readiness to settle the details related to the Abu Musa issue according to the past agreements.

It was determined in the meeting that the Iranian and UAE's political missions in Tehran and Abu Dhabi discuss setting up of the final agenda and prepare the ground for Tehran's negotiations whose exact date has not been disclosed yet.

Speaking at a news conference in Iran's embassy here, Ha'eri-Fumani described the outcome of the talks as "successful and fruitful". He said that the three rounds of talks were held in a "friendly" atmosphere and that the two sides tabled their proposals and reached agreements to some extent.

The Iranian official categorically denied a report by the UAE news agency, WAM, alleging that the UAE delegation had submitted a note on the islands of Abu Musa as well as Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek to the Iranian delegation. He said he had asked the representative of the UAE news agency to deny the report.

On the contents of the talks with the UAE officials, he said in order to reach a common framework on the issues under discussion and to make preparations for the forthcoming talks in Tehran, the diplomatic missions of the two countries in Tehran and Abu Dhabi were assigned to follow up the case. He said that in view of the sensitivity of the Persian Gulf region and the fact that the region has already witnessed two devastating wars, the need to avoid the emergence of a new crisis and to peacefully settle the issues was underlined.

"The countries which are exercising influence on the region from far away, in order to secure their own interests, are planning to create crisis in the region," he said. "Providence and wisdom demand that our UAE brothers take into consideration the fact that creation of crisis in the region will end to nothing but losses."

Asked whether besides the Abu Musa issue, the question of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek were also discussed with the UAE side, Ha'eri-Fumani stressd, "the two islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek belong to Iran and no Iranian would allow himself to negotiate with others on the sovereignty of his own land." The Iranian Foreign Ministry official, however, noted that the UAE delegation had insisted on inclusion of the issue of the two islands in the agenda but that the Iranian delegation had strongly opposed it.

"The case of Abu Musa is different. There exists an agreement between Iran and al-Shariqah on the island. The Islamic Republic of Iran has no problem with al-Shariqah in this regard," he made it clear.

During the negotiations, "We announced our readiness to settle the Abu Musa issue, underlined Iran's adherence to the 1971 agreement and invited the UAE delegation to visit Tehran to follow up the talks," Ha'eri-Fumani stated.

Some eight months ago, a boat, carrying weapons and ammunition, and including a Dutch passenger was stopped by Iranian authorities near Abu Musa island, he explained. "The Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of the sensitivity of the region and the need to maintain its security, adopted certain security measures for foreigners. However, nothing has happened with regards to the people of al-Shariqah who live in the island." "We told our UAE brothers that the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the Abu Musa island has not changed and that all agreements already reached between Iran and al-Shariqah remain valid."

Ha'eri-Fumani notified that at the time of the signing of the agreement between Iran and al-Shariqah, the emirates had "not been established yet." The Iranian official told reporters that Iran and al-Shariqah used to solve any sort of problem on Abu Musa through negotiations during the past 20 years. However, the recent row was tabled by the central government in Abu Dhabi which insisted to transfer the issue from al-Shariqah to Abu Dhabi.

"Only after becoming sure of the fact that the al-Shariqah ruler had accepted to refer the negotiations to Abu Dhabi, Iran accepted to immediately despatch a delegation to Abu Dhabi for negotiations."

Underlining that Iran-UAE relations are in a very good level and that the two countries enjoy common religious, historical and cultural backgrounds, the Foreign Ministry official expressed hope that the Abu Musa issue would be solved in a "friendly atmosphere" and in an environment of understanding.

Yemen

Salih Delivers Revolution Anniversary Speech

JN2509205592

[Editorial Report] Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1703 GMT on 25 September carries "an important political statement" by Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih marking the 30th anniversary of the 26 September 1962 revolution, which was delivered today. The speech is live or recorded. Reception is fair to poor.

Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih begins by lavishing praise on the "immortal 26 September revolution, which epitomized the Yemenis' aspirations and yearnings for freedom, dignity, pride, and progress." He congratulates the Yemeni people in his name and on behalf of the Presidential Council members on the occasion. He also congratulates the Armed Forces and security men on the anniversary.

Elaborating on the occasion, Presidential Council Chairman Salih says: "The celebrations marking the Yemeni revolution national days of 26 September and 14 October acquire a deeply historic significance from the immense revolutionary change brought about by the revolution in our people's life, as well as in the state of affairs of our Yemeni homeland following a long and strenuous struggle, waged by the enlightened national vanguards who had faith in the values and principles of freedom, justice, and equality. This struggle was baptized with chaste blood and enormous sacrifices made by free Yemenis and courageous strugglers, who inscribed the most splendid and unique heroic feats in the execution arenas, in prisons, in exile, and in all fields of struggle to vindicate the national will regarding emancipation from the Imamate system of government and colonial rule."

Presidential Council Chairman Salih lavishes praise on the strugglers who made these changes possible. He maintains that the "great Yemeni revolution brought things back to normal and enabled the people to regain their free will and to recreate their way of life, as enshrined and spelled out in the sublime objectives of the revolution." Salih derives pride from the fact that these objectives have been turned into "tangible accomplishments and victories, thanks to action, struggle, and

the sacrifices made by our people along the path of freedom, independence, and progress." Thanks to these accomplishments and victories, he adds, the Yemeni people have managed to uproot the legacy of backwardness and despotism. He praises the spread of primary education throughout Yemen after it had been the monopoly of a certain class of society in the past. He adds that roads have also been built by the government to link various parts of the homeland, not to mention the establishment of power and water stations. Among the revolution's accomplishments, Salih notes, is also the building of dams and modern irrigation projects. President Salih points to the building of modern ports, airports, hospitals, and health care units throughout Yemen and deems them accomplishments of the Republic. He also deems oil and mineral discoveries accomplishments, saying: "Oil and mineral discoveries have been made. Furthermore, giant installations for producing and refining oil and exploiting gas, among other numerous raw materials sent to us by God as a gift, have been built and continue to be built. As part of our celebrations to mark the revolution anniversary, cornerstones will be laid for a number of new oil projects. Besides, new piping systems for pumping oil from the fields discovered in a number of the Republic's provinces will be built. Additionally, other productive oil fields will be linked to major production and refining installations."

President Salih says that the Yemeni people have managed to score all these successes while facing immense challenges. He says that these successes could have been greater had it not been for "the ferocious conspiracies and wars hostile to the revolution and the Republic," which were aimed at arresting the revolutionary transformation drive. He acknowledges that "some negative phenomena accompanied the march of the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October, which in turn created additional obstacles in the way of revolution and the homeland's quest for progress."

Elaborating on this, President Salih says: "However, our people, through their steadfastness and sacrifices, have shown an ability to defend the revolution and its accomplishments as well as a willingness to sidestep all negative phenomena and deal with their results. Thus, great victories have been achieved. These victories were crowned with the victorious restoration of the homeland's unity on 22 May 1990. Supported by their legacy, capabilities, and militant history, our people will forge ahead to safeguard and reinforce their accomplishments in all fields, particularly in the field of economy, which is based on the course of free enterprise, nurtured by positive competition and integration among all productive sectors to serve the development process. On this occasion, we would like to reiterate our continued support for, and encouragement of, national capital so that it may continue its pioneering national contributions in the fields of construction. Similarly, we would like to express our satisfaction over investment activities currently under way in various fields in our country after the proper climate for this was created by the issuance of the new investment law, which provided great assurances and opportunities to investors and ensured the achievement of mutual benefits and common interests."

President Salih then notes that efforts are currently under way to implement "several service and development projects in Aden, the economic and commercial capital, which has been accorded a special priority, thanks to its historical and economic importance, by attracting further investment capital into the free zone—to which we are aspiring with great confidence—since it will play a vital role in enhancing the resourcefulness of the national economy in the near future, God willing."

Noting the approaching general elections, President Salih says: "It has been the wish of Almighty God that our people celebrate the revolution's 30th anniversary while they are on a date with destiny for the holding of the first democratic elections, under the canopy of a new Yemen shielded by the banner of great victory, within the framework of a multiparty system and full political freedoms. The Higher Elections Committee is continuing its efforts to make the necessary preparations and arrangements for the holding of general elections within the next few months in a free and honest atmosphere, ensuring honest competition among all and affirming the electorate's right to elect representatives to the Council of Representatives in an exercise of their free will, away from violence, terrorism, and fanaticism, which will remain rejected and unacceptable to our society and to all our people's masses. Undoubtedly, elections will show an intensive national interaction and elicit large-scale international attention, given that they will be the actual embodiment of true democratic practices in our country, which are currently forging ahead firmly and determinedly, and they will add a new civilized contribution to our people's legacy, in terms of the peaceful exchange of authority and political power-sharing through the use of civilized and democratic means of government. We are confident that our people, through all this, will prove that Yemen—which was one of the sites where ancient civilizations prospered—thanks to its indigenous and cooperative shura legacy, is determined to accomplish its cultural plan and restore its ancient historical glories. Democracy is our irreversible civilized option."

Elaborating on this, President Salih says: "Now that we are about to reach the end of the transitional period and we are making preparations for the holding of general elections under the canopy of unity, we all, at the level of state institutions and all political parties and organizations and popular sectors as well, must receive this historic event with jubilation and solidarity, exactly as our people received the restoration of the homeland's unity on 22 May and the eruption of the volcanoes of the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October and the colonialists' eviction from the homeland and independence on 30 November. All must be armed with a national awareness that places the homeland's interests

above all other considerations and above all party affiliations. They must be strong, with their faith and with the masses, and also with their adherence to noble principles, which fortify them against all kinds of conspiracy, which aim to confuse and terrorize the masses by spreading deceptive rumors and propaganda to arouse fears about unity, which is shielded and immunized by the people's masses and all their nationalist forces, and which is, above all, guarded by the care of God the Almighty, Who wanted these people to unite after disunity and division. This requires us all to shoulder our national responsibilities to meet the challenges facing the homeland and its democratic experience, to rise above selfish interests and personal gain, and to shun all remnants of the past, as this is what would frustrate the ambitions of the covetous parties and conspirators. Furthermore, this would enhance the esteemed position currently reserved for our country by the peoples and nations of the world. We would like to reiterate that the current stage requires the concerted national efforts of all to implement the cultural and educational plan of new Yemen, which requires the effective participation of all."

Commenting further on the elections, President Salih says: "On this occasion, we would like to address an honest appeal to all political parties and organizations, urging them to coordinate their efforts and mobilize all available resources and capabilities to ensure positive participation in the elections, enrich democratic practices, and shoulder all national responsibilities."

President Salih salutes the Armed Forces and security men, "guardians of the revolution, the Republic, unity, and democracy, who are holding out in the sites of glory and honor to safeguard sovereignty; consecrate security and stability; defend the people's options of freedom, democracy, and progress; shield constitutional legitimacy; and protect all gains and accomplishments. Furthermore, we would like to reiterate that we will continue to take interest in the Armed Forces and the security apparatus and redouble efforts to consummate their reorganization and modernization along modern scientific bases, based on the principle of qualitative structuring which would enhance their strength and enable them to accomplish their sublime missions, given that the Armed Forces and the security organs are the homeland's strength and its means of protecting the revolution and unity and confronting all kinds of conspiracies, which seek to undermine security and stability."

President Salih praises Yemen's foreign ties, noting that Yemen is currently maintaining "clearly principled ties with all Arab states and has developed ties with most world states." He maintains that the Yemeni people, "being an indivisible part of their Arab and Islamic nation, are obsessed with the worries plaguing their fraternal Arabs and Muslims, be they in Palestine, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and other areas in which the peoples of our Arab and Islamic nation are facing serious challenges and difficulties."

Elaborating on Yemen's foreign ties, President Salih says: "We, in the Republic of Yemen, out of our pan-Arab and Islamic responsibilities, urge all brothers to close ranks and pool their resources to meet the current challenges, restore Arab and Islamic solidarity, and halt the internal bloodletting currently plaguing some Arab and Islamic peoples. Moreover, we call for making immense efforts to halt the infighting among Somali brothers so that relief aid can be provided to the victims of the destructive civil war in this fraternal country. It is our strong hope that the fraternal Somalis will seek the position of fairness and peaceful dialogue to rid their homeland of its ordeal and alleviate the sufferings of their people, who are burdened by war and starvation."

President Salih affirms Yemen's commitment to the "firm constants" governing its ties with Islamic and Arab states and affirms its "positive role" as a country that belongs to the group of developing nations, which must exhibit cooperation and solidarity to protect their interests.

President Salih ends his speech at 1727 GMT by extending his congratulations to the Yemeni people once again on the 30th anniversary of the "great 26 September revolution," invoking God's mercy on the Yemeni and Egyptian martyrs who fell on Yemeni soil.

UN Team Continues Chemical Weapons Inspection

None Found North of Baghdad

NC2809190292 Paris AFP in English 1834 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 28 (AFP)—U.N. experts visited two sites in northern Iraq on Monday in search of chemical weapons but found nothing, the inspection team leader said.

Bernhard Brunner declined to give the exact locations but sources close to the inspectors said they had travelled to sites around 350 kilometres (210 miles) north of Baghdad using German helicopters.

"We found no chemical weapons. That means they have been destroyed or transported to al-Muthanna," the Swiss team leader told reporters.

Brunner said his team had so far inspected 10 sites and would carry out a final visit on Tuesday in the Baghdad region before winding up its mission and leaving the country.

On Sunday, the inspectors paid a surprise visit to al-Muthanna, the site where Baghdad has agreed to gather all its stockpiles of chemical weapons for destruction.

Under U.N. supervision, Iraq has built two incinerators at al- Muthanna to burn nerve gas and mustard gas. It lies in the desert 130 kilometres (80 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

The six-member team led by Brunner has since September 21 checked if Iraq moved all its chemical weapons to the site.

They revealed Saturday that some weapons were still being stored at two sites west of Baghdad but would be transferred by Iraqi authorities to al-Muthanna.

The United Nations ordered the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction after the Gulf War last year.

Arms Being Destroyed 'Now'

NC2909100092 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 29 (AFP)—Iraq has begun destroying its chemical weapons stockpiles at a desert site northwest of Baghdad, U.N. inspection team leader Bernhard Brunner said Tuesday.

The weapons have been gathered at Al-Muthanna, 130 kilometres (80 miles) from here, where U.N. experts supervised the building of two incinerators to burn nerve gas and mustard gas.

"The destruction process has started now" although there was "still a lot of work to do," Brunner said as he left Baghdad on a final inspection before leaving for Bahrain.

Brunner, a Swiss, said most of the chemical weapons had been transferred to Al-Muthanna, where his six-member team paid a surprise visit Sunday. The team travelled to 10 sites around the country during a 10-day mission.

The destruction process will last six months to a year, the head of the previous chemical mission Ron Manley said earlier this month.

The operation is aimed at destroying 140 tonnes of nerve gas and, at a later stage, 400 tonnes of mustard gas under U.N. Gulf War ceasefire resolutions ordering the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Ex-USSR Nuclear Experts Said Working in Iraq

AU2809095792 Hamburg WELT AM SONNTAG in German 27 Sep 92 p 7

[Heinz Vielain report: "Federal Intelligence Service: Nuclear Experts in Iraq, Iran, Egypt"]

[Text] Bonn—About 50 nuclear experts from the successor states of the former Soviet Union are said to be working in Iraq. This is noted in a report by the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) to State Minister Bernd Schmidbauer (Christian Democratic Union), who is responsible in the chancellor's office for coordinating the intelligence services.

In many other cases the BND, which is responsible for reconnaissance abroad, has specific information about the "allegedly successful recruitment" of former Soviet nuclear arms experts by Third World countries. In the report, which has become known to WELT AM SONNTAG, the BND reports in detail to the chancellor's office about the following findings, most of which, however, still have to be finally confirmed:

—Algeria: Several Russian have allegedly been recruited.

—Brazil: The Brazilian Embassy in Moscow is said to have sent personnel files of 60 CIS scientists who are interested in working abroad to Brasilia.

—PRC: At the beginning of 1992 the General Staff of the Chinese Army issued directives for the specific recruiting of nuclear experts.

—India: Four scientists have allegedly applied for jobs.

—Iraq: A total of 50 nuclear experts are reportedly staying in Iraq, including a laser expert from the Russian nuclear arms development center Arzamas-16 and an expert for multiple missile warheads from Ukraine.

—Iran: Since the end of 1991 14 nuclear scientists from CIS states have reportedly been staying in Iran. Work contracts have reportedly been concluded with more than 50 nuclear experts and 200 engineers.

—Israel: It is said that 40 nuclear experts are among the 7,000 scientists who have emigrated to Israel from the former USSR since 1989.

—Libya: Official offers to two Russian nuclear experts have been rejected by them. However, several Russians are already working in Libya who are not included in the official cooperation program.

The BND also reports that the experts from the former Soviet Union who knew secrets of nuclear technology are mainly Russians. A total of 2,000 to 3,000 of these experts have specialized knowledge about the construction of nuclear weapons. Another 3,000 to 5,000 know how to produce fissionable material (uranium enrichment as well as the production of plutonium and tritium).

The BND report says that the Russian side and also the CIS as a whole keeps giving assurances that no nuclear arms experts have emigrated and no nuclear weapons have disappeared. The laboratories of the former USSR dealing with the development and construction of nuclear weapons are largely located on the territory of the Republic of Russia. A special exception is the former nuclear arms test site at Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan.

As WELT AM SONNTAG learned from the Bonn Foreign Ministry, officials there increasingly complain about the fact that the aid campaign for supporting former Soviet nuclear experts, which was initiated with the participation of Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is not making faster progress. Already in February this year the establishment of a science and technology center in Russia was agreed upon on an initiative by Germany, Russia, and the United States. The EC has also promised to support the project.

This international facility is supposed to create jobs in civilian research for scientists and engineers, many of whom have slid into poverty after the collapse of the USSR. In addition, it is to make sure that the experts do not move to states that want to acquire nuclear arms.

The Foreign Ministry says that the establishment of the center in Russia is again delayed, in particular also within the EC, because there are disputes about formal issues. Thus, at the moment the contentious issue is the jargon to be used for the founding document, which now, after an extended quarrel, in particular with the French, is to be written in 11 languages.

Opposition Presidium To Comprise 2 Arabs, 1 Kurd

NC2809180492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Representatives of Iraqi opposition parties meeting since 23 September in Salah al-Din and then in Shaqlawah in Iraqi Kurdistan have drawn up the outlines of an agreement on forming a command for the Iraqi oppostion. This has been stated by Kamal Fu'ad, representative of the Kurdistan front, which consists of eight Kurdish opposition parties.

Fu'ad explained that the conferees have agreed on setting up a three-man presidium consisting of two Arabs and one Kurd. They have also agreed on forming an executive committee made up of between 20 and 25 members.

Islamic Leader Outlines Opposition Hopes

PM2509134192 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Sep 92 p 8

[Interview with Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by 'Adnan Husayn in Tehran; date not given: "Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim: No to Federation in North"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Husayn] Why are you unwilling to accept a federation?

[Al-Hakim] We have no opinion or specific and final position on that issue. We only believe that raising the issue at this stage does not serve our cause. With regard to the final position on the federation issue, it is a question which requires discussion so that we can decide whether to take a positive or negative position on it. Our opinion has been that this issue should not be raised now. But this does not constitute a position on the issue. We are not against the Kurds' aspirations and rights. What we are working for is the achievement of all the Iraqi people's aspirations and violated rights. In political action tasks are arranged according to their priority. And the priority now is to get rid of Saddam Husayn's dictatorial regime. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] The ban imposed by the allies on the Iraqi regime's military air activities in the south has not prevented the regime from continuing to suppress inhabitants there. Do you have any information about any other future steps designed to achieve this aim?

[Al-Hakim] From the outset I have been pointing to the measures which should be taken to stop the suppression operations in Iraq. And until now the question is still this: Is the ban alone sufficient, or is it just a serious process designed to serve the implementation of Security Council Resolution 688, which is based on two principal foundations—First, preventing Saddam's regime from suppressing the Iraqi people; second, putting an end to the regime's threats to the region's security and the states neighboring Iraq. True, the regime was using aircraft extensively in bombardment and reconnaissance, but it is currently employing measures that are more effective and harmful by shelling inhabitants with artillery and tanks. And these are no less destructive than aircraft, especially in the long term, when targets become clear. The regime is also using something that is more severe than artillery. It is what we can term a life siege, as it is using measures that make the area uninhabitable, like cutting off and polluting water. Inhabitants in many areas of the marshlands have started to emigrate to nearby towns and villages. The regime is currently fighting the inhabitants economically, as inhabitants' food supplies have been cut off or rationed. And food supplies have been moved to other areas. This effort is crucial to the Iraqis. Because, in view of the international

embargo imposed on Iraq, the regime's measures make a life which is already difficult even more so. And although the Kurds in northern Iraq receive international relief aid and have corridors across neighboring states, they have been harmed a great deal by the siege imposed by the regime. So we can imagine the scale of the suffering of inhabitants in the south, who are exposed to similar measures but are receiving no relief aid and have no corridors across neighboring countries. This is in addition to the large-scale arrests among inhabitants in the south, reinforcement of security measures, prohibition of traffic on most of the major roads, and closure of public service facilities and economic establishments—which aggravate the bad conditions there.

Of course, one of the regime's purposes in pursuing these measures is to show the inhabitants that their life under the air blockade is worse than it was before the blockade.

[Husayn] What measures do you believe should be taken?

[Al-Hakim] To ban all military activities and the operations of organized repression in the area. And to provide the inhabitants with relief aid, namely food and medicine, whether through international aid or by releasing frozen Iraqi funds abroad and using them to purchase the food, medicine, and other necessaries which the Iraqi people need. And I believe that, if that is decided, neighboring states will act responsibly and allow these materials to be transported to the Iraqi people across their territories. In fact if these measures are not taken, conditions in the south will worsen further.

[Husayn] What are you in the opposition doing to push in that direction?

[Al-Hakim] We have taken several steps to that end. The most strategic step at this level is the achievement of Iraqi opposition unity. I can say now that it has been possible to move some steps in that direction. This progress must be complemented by a unionist formula for all the opposition's efforts. We believe that this is important not only for addressing the international community as a clearly defined quarter representing the Iraqi situation, but also for safeguarding the Iraqi people's interests and Iraq's future and unity, for avoiding problems that could be stirred up over the future of relations among the Iraqi opposition parties, and for avoiding what is happening now in other countries like Somalia and Afghanistan. And I believe that without securing a unionist formula for the Iraqi opposition we cannot achieve the international resolutions and measures we are seeking to achieve to help the Iraqi people toward a serious action to topple Saddam's regime. All we are seeking now is to secure a formula that enjoys domestic support as well as regional and international support. And we believe that the domestic support is necessary in order for the unified political entity of the Iraqi opposition to represent the Iraqi people's religious and national pride and reflect national, sectarian, and political diversity of Iraqi society.

This unified entity is also important at the regional level, because Saddam Husayn's regime threatened not only the Iraqi people, but neighboring peoples and states as well. It attacked the Islamic Republic in Iran, it attacked Kuwait, and it threatened other neighboring states. Among the duties of the unified entity of the Iraqi opposition is to assure these states that conditions in Iraq in the future will be completely different from what they were under Saddam's rule. The same applies to the international community, where Iraq has become a major issue.

We have made extensive contacts with all the states neighboring Iraq and other states in the region and the world. The aim of these contacts was to secure a public opinion that supports the Iraqi opposition's orientations and eliminates the fears about Iraq's partition or exposure to sectarian conflicts or domestic wars. In addition to securing measures to help the Iraqi people in terms of aid and the provision of the basic needs for them. We focused in these contacts on the need to release frozen Iraqi funds abroad and to place them under their disposal in order to provide them with what they need, in particular food and medicine. And we are currently making contacts with Iraqi popular and military circles both inside and outside the country to find suitable arrangements to organize relief operations and secure administrative measures if an administrative vacuum should develop in the areas in which these operations are conducted.

Autonomy Said 'Impractical' Solution for Kurds

NC2609202392 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] When the Vienna opposition conference was held in June, the Kurdistan Front's participation was extensive. The results of that conference were to the advantage of the Kurdish people and their liberation movement. The conference participants endorsed the principle of a federation as the best solution for the Kurdish problem. Today, at the Salah al-Din conference, the resolutions adopted by the Vienna conference are used as a basis for the debate that has been going on for the past few days.

The Kurdistan Front is represented at the conference by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman and Dr. Kamal Fu'ad. As we have stated yesterday, 'Abd-al-Rahman insisted that a federation is the optimum solution demanded by the Kurdish people and the Kurdistan Front, the prominent representative of the Kurdish people. Our people should be proud of this accomplishment; that is, the meeting of opposition parties on the land of liberated Kurdistan. The Kurdistan Front was the main party that managed to bring together representatives of 30 Iraqi Islamic, secular, national, and nationalist parties and organizations. Those attending the conference have realized that

the Kurdish people have enough qualified [word indistinct] and politicians to be able to organize such a massive conference. They also knew that Kurdistan is well organized in all aspects, and that its government has managed to prove itself at the Kurdish level and live up to its responsibility and to the expectations of everyone.

We would like to say that Kurdistan today is enjoying the rights that our people are demanding. Those who travel around in our cities and villages will realize fully that a people with such qualifications will never give up its accomplishments, made in such record time and during the difficult circumstances it has endured, particularly because it is facing a ferocious enemy with long experience in sabotage, terrorism, and vileness. We have sensed a great response from some of the delegates, but some others tried to evade their responsibility. However, everyone realizes the new reality created by developments that occurred in both Iraq and Kurdistan over the past two years. In addition, some of Iraq's neighbors have welcomed the Salah al-Din conference, and voiced support for the ongoing talks among the Iraqi opposition delegates. Add to this the fact that the Vienna conference was accepted by international quarters, particularly the West and the United States, which is imposing a siege on [word indistinct] and protecting the safehaven in Kurdistan and the south, where a ban on the regime's flight is in force. The current conference has branched off from the Vienna conference and its resolutions will complement those reached by the successful Vienna conference.

While wishing success to the Salah al-Din conference, we call on the Kurdistan Front's parties to consolidate the legitimate rights of the Kurdish people and not to abandon them in any way whatsoever. Autonomy is an outdated and impractical solution which we do not accept. The Kurdish people, as Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman has mentioned on more than one occasion, will not waste a single drop of blood from now on for the sake of autonomy. Should there be future confrontations as a result of rejection by the Iraqi governments that will assume power after Saddam Husayn's regime, then these confrontations will be fatal. [sentence as heard] Then the Kurdish people will have (?fateful) demands that they will never abandon in any way whatsoever. Thus, the Iraqi opposition must fully understand the circumstances we are living in, and its thinking and proposed solutions should be up-to-date.

Today, we are not begging anyone for a solution. It is natural for the other parties to accept our right to self-determination on our territories, to enjoy our natural resources in terms of minerals, oil, water, and other treasures contained in our land, and place them at the service of the people, who have been suffering from injustice since the dawn of this century. Our right is clear and our demands are just. We have enough determination, courage, and self-denial to achieve what we want, God willing.

Paper Views French 'Gifts of Death' for Kurds

JN2509105192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stated that those who wish to help the Kurds of Iraq do not send weapons to the treacherous and renegade individuals who are in control of that area, but act in a way to protect the unity of this country and stop the interfering in its domestic affairs.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH says: Turkey's statement on the impoundment of a French plane in Diyarbakir, loaded with military hardware and weapons destined for northern Iraq, amounts to a French scandal as shameful as the other scandals committed by the French authorities in recent years.

The paper adds: What the Iraqi Kurds in the area controlled by the traitors, the renegade, and the U.S.-British-French occupation forces need is to be set free so they can once again have the security, peace, and tranquillity they have lost due to the acts perpetrated by al-Talabani gangs with the help of the U.S.- British-French aid.

The paper concludes by saying: The gifts of death that the French plane was carrying should prompt a courageous stand by our Kurdish people, now that they know that the Americans, the Britons, and the French have used the Kurdish card to serve their imperialist interests and colonialists designs, and that the use of the humanitarian aid pretext is only a political tool to murder the Kurds and destroy the region to pave the way for the colonialist scheme.

U.S. Said Planning To 'Steal' Assets Abroad

JN2509184892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Iraq today accused the United States and its allies of seeking to steal its frozen assets abroad and to increase the pains of Iraqis who have been under an economic and trade blockade since 1990.

Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih threatened to hold these countries responsible for the crime of increasing child death rates if Baghdad fails to purchase required foodstuffs from abroad due to the shortage of funds.

Washington, backed by London and Paris, is seeking to make the UN Security Council issue a resolution seizing Baghdad's frozen assets to finance UN activities in Iraq. Baghdad says that it has $4 billion currently frozen in foreign banks .

Ramadan Comments on Domestic, Regional Affairs

JN2809093792 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic
23 Sep 92 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, by Hamid 'Abdallah—date and place not given]

[Text] ['Abdallah] In his letter to the Iraqi people, leader President Saddam Husayn called for wise planning. How is the state proceeding in this direction?

[Ramadan] Leader President Saddam Husayn's letter to the sons of his people is not the first of its kind. Rather, it is an assertion of the leader's course, strategic vision, insight, and profound reading of the future.

In his historic speech on the glorious 17-30 July revolution anniversary, his excellency asserted that the blockade will not be lifted by a decision, but that it was eroding thanks to the Iraqis' steadfastness and comprehensive reconstruction drive, and with every contribution made by the proud Iraqis and honorable Arabs. His excellency's recent letter drew a sound course for state departments and explained the role that must be played by Iraqi citizens and families as part of their national duty and jihad to counter and break the blockade.

Therefore, we believe that the executive authority now adopts two lines. The first is to implement the contents of leader President Saddam Husayn's letter on importing allowed commodities and preventing the entry of banned commodities. This has been decided in light of the scale of priorities and the dictates of the circumstances of the blockade. This does not mean that banned commodities are absolutely unnecessary. However, the scale of priorities requires that such commodities be excluded for now. The second line, which is more important and which the state departments are working on now, is to produce domestically all commodities that are listed as unessential. The production of some of these commodities has already started. Meanwhile, efforts are continuing to produce other commodities through national resources and expertise. If any national industry needs to be protected and sponsored and to be given a chance to prove its worthiness, the blockade and its results constituted an opportunity to protect the national industry. At the same time, the conspiracy of the blockade was an incentive for the Iraqi citizen to activate production, improve quality, and find alternatives to banned or excluded imports.

National enthusiasm and the spirit of jihad have jointly contributed to the promotion of production and to the creation of the means and methods to break and fragment the blockade. The reconstruction experience was unique in terms of efficiency, quality, and speed. This experience constituted the counterattack against the aggression. Likewise, activating and increasing production under the circumstances of the blockade will be faster and more efficient than under normal circumstances.

['Abdallah] But the burden of the blockade has begun to take its toll on the Iraqi family and there is nothing to indicate that it might be lifted or even eased?

[Ramadan] The burden being carried by the Iraqi citizen because of the blockade is the price of freedom, sovereignty, and adherence to principles. We should not draw up plans and programs in the hope that the Americans and their allies will act in a logical or humane manner. This is because those are criminals and enemies to Iraq, the Arab nation, and mankind. They falsify slogans of democracy and human rights. All the bad names in the lexicon are not enough to describe those people and the lowly traitors whom they bought.

I am confident that the agricultural and industrial sectors, in addition to the Iraqi family's wise planning and the promotion of government performance, will yield major results as far as the promotion of agricultural and industrial production and good planning are concerned to effectively contribute to the breaking of the blockade.

['Abdallah] How do you assess our people's confrontation of the American-British-French conspiracy in the south?

[Ramadan] The conspiracy is continuing, and it will continue so long as we continue to adhere to the great values and principles, which were abandoned by the traitors. The recent conspiracy constitutes only one chapter of plotting against Iraq. Although they found a false cover for their past unjust resolutions, they were unable to find even a worn out cover for their recent conspiracy. They have bypassed the UN Security Council and ignored some of its members' rejection of their evil decision. They have shown disdain for everything, particularly for the traitors of the nation who helped them and provided them with the cover for their aggression against Iraq. Even though they believed that their recent conspiracy would fragment Iraq's people, the Iraqis proved the contrary. In fact, their decision has contributed to bolstering Iraq's unity and integrity. What happened in al-Qurnah and al-'Adl proves this fact.

['Abdallah] You have led Iraq's delegation to the Nonaligned Movement summit. How do you view the movement's future and effectiveness in light of what you have seen at the Jakarta summit?

[Ramadan] When we assess the Nonaligned Movement now, we should not go too far and imagine that the principles on which the movement was based are still governing its practices. The one who strongly believes in sound principles is the one who deeply adheres to these principles. There have been some Nonaligned member states to which the principles and characteristics of the Nonaligned Movement do not apply. There are states which sign agreements to establish military bases on their territory, and which, at the same time, are Nonaligned members. Therefore, we must not give the movement more than what it actually deserves. What is important is that we can hear the good and independent voices in the Nonaligned arena more than in any other

place due to the American hegemony over the other arenas. I do not say that the good voice is loud and clear in the Nonaligned arena, but it is still there. Something to be added to the Nonaligned Movement's record is that during its Jakarta summit, it called for reconsidering the structure of the United Nations due to the discrepancy in the current structure, and the absence of equality and justice. The Movement's voice was clear in calling for restoring balance in duties and rights and the fair representation of continents. The chairman of the recent summit was entrusted with forming a high-level committee to draft and finalize this proposal. Regardless of what has been achieved, what was issued by the summit is a translation of the voice of security, safety, and independence. What is needed now is further cooperation among the movement's states to reactivate its role. Certainly, the states which still adhere to the movement's principles are the ones qualified to restore its effectiveness and strength.

['Abdallah] What about the bribes some movement member states have paid to buy the consciences of other member states?

[Ramadan] The strange thing is that some sides received very cheap and disgraceful bribes in return for stances and voices. This was clear with those who sold their stances in return for a personal bribe. The silence of the oil emirates in the Arabian Gulf, Egypt, and Syria was also disgraceful when the restructuring of the United Nations was discussed. These states did not discuss or call for this. On the contrary, they described the current international situation as the only world order. The reasons behind this are undoubtedly known.

['Abdallah] What is Iran's role in the scheme to partition Iraq?

[Ramadan] Iran has provided a cover for the United States to peddle its recent resolution against Iraq after it failed to find such a cover. This took place when Iran "volunteered" to send groups of infiltrators to southern Iraq to foment disorder, disturbances, and sabotage so that it could be claimed that there is an abnormal situation in southern Iraq. Facts have shown that there is an Iranian plan to attack representatives of international organizations operating in southern Iran to claim that Iraq is unable to provide protection for such teams.

Iran's conspiracy in the region is clear, be it against Iraq or other Gulf states. How do the Gulf states interpret Iran's insistence on occupying Arab islands? What will the United States tell its protectorates in the Gulf about the Iranian behavior, given that it knows to whom these islands belong and the nature of Iranian ambitions?

The United States turns a blind eye to Iran when it usurps Arab territory, but when Iraq restores part of its territory a third world war is launched under many pretexts.

U.S. aggressiveness and duality in international relations has made it easy for any state to mobilize its people against U.S. aggression. States need no further justifications to convince their people of U.S. intentions. There are many examples to this effect. How then would our people react after they have felt U.S. aggressiveness, seen U.S. intentions, and provided heavy sacrifices when they confronted the United States?

Many nonaligned states have been astonished by America's allegation that it defends the Shi'ites of Iraq. They wondered how the Americans can claim to be eager to protect Iraq's Shi'ites at a time when the Shi'ites of Lebanon are suffering from the U.S.-backed occupation, oppression, and killing.

Iraq's steadfastness before the U.S. arrogance has exposed the true U.S. intentions. Leader President Saddam Husayn is the great symbol of freedom, independence, and dignity. Modern times have not seen a leader who resisted injustice with such courage. Leader President Saddam Husayn has become an example of courage and freedom. Thus, Iraq under Saddam Husayn is a source of anxiety for the United States and its allies.

Rabin on Peace Process, U.S. Ties, Iraq

TA2809115192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0808 GMT 28 Sep 92

["Special" Rosh Hashana interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shlomo Raz, Razi Barqay, and Shalom Qital on 27 September at the prime minister's bureau in Tel Aviv—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Qital] Let me ask you a technical question regarding the Syrians: Do you believe you will meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad within the next few months?

[Rabin] On the basis of my information, I cannot say that this is a realistic possibility at the moment. One of the things I tried to explain—especially during my visit to the United States and in my talks with President Bush, Secretary of State Baker, the entire White House staff, and senior State Department officials—is that without a change, and without a readiness at the highest political level in Syria to demonstrate to the Israeli people, but even more so to the Syrian people, that the political leadership intends to achieve peace.... [changes thought] This does not even necessitate any radical action like the late Egyptian President al-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem in November 1977 and speech before the Knesset. However, it will be difficult to achieve peace at all if such readiness is not evinced by the highest political echelons in both countries. Negotiations at the delegation level will not suffice to bring peace unless they are backed at the highest political echelons. What is required is a process of mutual persuasion—and the Syrians hold the key to this because as far as Israel is concerned there were never any obstacles to holding meetings at the most senior levels with other Arab countries, especially Syria, with which we never had such contacts. Without such a stage, I find it hard to foresee any significant progress toward peace. [passage omitted]

[Raz] Until now, we have spoken about the bilateral track of direct negotiations between Israel and the three Arab parties. You have not mentioned the multilateral talks at all. Although, the multilaterals are the responsibility of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, I received the impression—when accompanying both you and Minister Peres to Europe—that your two viewpoints are completely different. Peres attaches great importance to the multilaterals, whereas you do not take them too seriously.

[Rabin] First of all, that is not correct. I attribute importance to the multilaterals. As you know, there are five committees. I have my own opinion regarding the committee on refugees. I think that it is unwise to insist that the Palestinian representatives on this committee come exclusively from the territories. I think that a great part of the solution of the problem of Palestinian refugees from 1948, and perhaps even from 1967, is not necessarily connected to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. I would prefer that there be a representative of the Palestinians in Syria, Jordan, or some other place on that committee. I would prefer that it be someone who is not a resident of the territories because the very insistence that only a representative of the territories participate in this committee may create the impression that we are about to link the refugee problem with mandatory Eretz Yisra'el or the right of return. [passage omitted]

[Qital] Are we not a little overly euphoric about our new relationship with the United States? You, or perhaps someone else, were quoted as saying that we had received a holiday gift: the helicopters. Are we not going a bit overboard, considering the fact that elections will be held in the United States in 45 days and everything could change?

[Rabin] First of all, I hope that the United States will pursue its current policy, regardless of who is elected. I am not euphoric with regard to our relations with the United States, notwithstanding the fact that for many years, ever since way back before the 1967 war, when I was still chief of staff, I asked former Prime Minister Levi Eshkol to appoint me ambassador to the United States because even then I believed that our relations with the United States would to a great extent decide Israel's ability to realize its goals in almost all fields, beyond what we ourselves could do. Therefore, I feel no euphoria because even during my meeting with President Bush I did not try to change his positions—which are the traditional positions of all U.S. Presidents—neither with regard to the settlements nor with regard to what territorial concessions Israel should make in return for peace because I realized that I was not confronting President Bush's personal position, but rather a position that was expressed almost word for word, if not in even sharper terms, by at least four Presidents.

[Barqay] Including Democratic Presidents, Mr. Rabin? Did you sense any Democratic leaning toward isolationism?

[Rabin] I am not worried about this. In my meeting with Governor Clinton, the Democratic candidate, I asked him, and also expressed concern about whether the current U.S. trend, which seems more evident in the Democratic Party platform, toward introspection, greater attention to domestic economic and social problems, and the diversion of defense budgets to resolve these issues, could unintentionally begin a process of U.S. isolationism. We Israelis, here in the Middle East, should regard any leaning toward isolationism on the part of the United States as a problem. One simple example is the continued activity of the UN teams in Iraq which were sent to destroy all the installations and facilities for research and development, production, and storage of nonconventional weapons in Iraq. Without the U.S. threat in the background, the UN supervisory teams would be thrown out of Iraq.

[Raz] Did Mr. Clinton reassure you?

[Rabin] He told me that there was no cause for such concern. On the contrary, he said, the stronger the United States is domestically, the stronger it will be internationally.

[Barqay] And you bought his explanation?

[Rabin] I heard what he had to say. I accept things that I am told in the hope that they were meant sincerely. I have no reason to be suspicious or to think differently.

[Raz] How much does the Iraqi threat continue to worry and bother you?

[Rabin] Among all the Arab states today, including Iran, Iraq is still the most advanced in the field of nuclear weapons development. I have no doubt that had the Gulf crisis not erupted and had the United States and its allies not waged a war against Iraq, which led to the exposure of its comprehensive plans for nuclear weapons development and the subsequent dispatching of UN supervisory teams which disrupted and continue to disrupt this process, in 1995 we would have been facing an Iraq with nuclear weapons. Clearly, this would have introduced a new element into Israel's major security problem which is the threat to its actual existence. Therefore, Iraq continues to worry me, even though it is still hurting now because if—and I stress that my hope is that this will not happen—the activity of the UN supervisory teams is stopped at any point within the next two years, and if Saddam Husayn remains in power, or if Iraq has another leader with similar megalomaniacal tendencies, then it will continue to worry me more than any other Arab country.

[Qital] Mr. Rabin, how much of your time can you devote to issues other than foreign or defense affairs?

[Rabin] There are economic and social issues that are tied to a great extent to foreign affairs and the issue of peace. Take tourism, for example. I think that tourism to Israel has tremendous economic potential.

[Qital] That is why you appointed 'Uzi Bar'am.

[Rabin] First of all, I think he is, and will prove to be, a good tourism minister. I just met Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in Berlin. Spain has 50 million citizens. The number of tourists who visited reached 80 million. This constitutes a huge income, more than almost all their industry. There is a small island not far from Israel called Cyprus. Three million tourists will visit Cyprus this year. Barring any unexpected developments, approximately 1.6 million tourists will arrive in Israel this year, and this is the best tourism year for Israel ever. If we cannot reach at least three or four million tourists within the next decade we will be forfeiting a tremendous source of income and jobs.

[Qital] But there are objective problems such as security. This is an objective problem.

[Rabin] Today, tourists are less concerned about day-to-day security. The threat of war....[changes thought] I, for instance, was afraid that the U.S. decision to fly over southern Iraq, compounded by the desire here in Israel to adopt various steps and play it overly safe, could have disrupted tourism. Therefore, although we acted with the appropriate caution, I believe, we also took certain risks, so as not to harm tourism. We were successful and our estimates as to the degree of risk were proven right. Now, let me answer your question. Is not $10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees a means to confront economic problems? Today, the major problem is unemployment and the question of how to resolve it through productive employment, the kind of employment that contributes to the economy, whether through expanding factories, increasing tourism, or setting up new factories. The problem is that we are also in the midst of an international recession, and economic woes and high unemployment are not Israel's problems exclusively. Second, we have a critical problem with the defense industries. We are facing a serious crisis in the Israel Military Industries [IMI]. In 1991 they lost $200 million. This year they will lose about $100 million. The Israel Aircraft Industries also will be facing difficult problems soon; REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] is in trouble all the time. We are heading toward cutbacks while still gathering momentum in the creation of a productive infrastructure. We may even have to find solutions to the employment problem other than productive employment because unemployment among the younger generation and the new immigrants may become one of the most serious problems facing our society.

[All three correspondents in unison] Are you talking about make-work projects? [laughter]

[Rabin] I would rather use the term initiated modern projects, not the make-work projects of the 1950's. I am still examining the matter, but it is quite possible that we may have to find a path integrating unemployment benefits—which already totalled nearly 1 billion shekels this year, and may even amount to more—with the kind of work that will permit on-the-job training. For example, on a small scale, we decided to take 500 new immigrant doctors, who were given a license to practice, and find a way to get them jobs as interns at hospitals—a stage that every doctor has to go through—even though this did not necessarily make economic sense. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff on Syria, U.S., Nuclear Peril

TA2709164392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1205 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Rosh Hashana interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Moshe Shlonsky and 'Ido Baum; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Shlonsky] Shalom and a happy new year to the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq.

[Baraq] Shalom and a happy new year.

[Shlonsky] This is an IDF Radio special Rosh Hashana interview. Military correspondent 'Ido Baum is here with me.

We are now in the midst of negotiations with Syria, in the wake of which Israel may agree to make territorial concessions. What is the military echelons' role during such political negotiations?

[Baraq] The negotiations are the province and responsibility of the political echelons, and it is right that they should conduct them. There are different aspects to the negotiations, such as the nature of peace, security arrangements, and in some cases, territorial amendments. All these have to be discussed as a whole. It is up to the army to aid the decisionmaking process by supplying answers and input in its own field.

[Baum] Can you indicate certain lines beyond which the army will say that if this or that withdrawal is effected, it will be unable to defend Israel?

[Baraq] In my opinion, this is not the question. In the present situation, and as long as total warfare against Syria is feasible and can happen at any time at short notice, we need a foothold in all of the Golan Heights. At this delicate point in time, it would be wrong for a chief of staff still in uniform to express his opinion on the scope of changes in a certain situation, the situation still being a hypothesis, a matter for speculation.

[Shlonsky] And in theory, do you expect a situation in which, for instance, the military echelons tell the politicians: Look, without any connection to the Golan Heights, such or such a concession will place us in a questionable position as far as our ability to defend a certain part of Israel is concerned?

[Baraq] In the event of a war in any location, we need a foothold in the entire territory. Even in the last decade of the 20th century, territorial depth is still very important whenever military force is used. We are talking about peace agreements, however, and at this point I cannot form a view on the whereabouts of borders if and when we and the Syrians have relations similar to those between Holland and Belgium, or even Israel and Egypt.

[Shlonsky] Does the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have special contingency plans for the Golan Heights?

[Baraq] We know the Golan Heights perfectly well, and if and when we reach the stage when we are required to discuss these things, we will not delay our answers. The absence of IDF answers will not put off the technical possibility of discussing these issues, if and when the need arises.

[Baum] Do you share the view that Syria, the Syrian regime, and perhaps Hafiz al-Asad himself have undergone a significant change?

[Baraq] I believe Hafiz al-Asad remains a very serious leader, sober, thoughtful, prudent, experienced, sophisticated, calculated, cool, persistently striving to exhaust every available political and strategic factor for the benefit of Syria. This fact remains. What has changed is not Hafiz al-Asad or Syria, but the facts. In the absence of Soviet backing, both as arms supplier and strategic fallback, and in the absence of an Arab country around our borders with which Syria can wage a war against Israel....[changes thought]

We have a peace with Egypt which has passed quite arduous tests; with Jordan, we have had a de facto coexistence for over 20 years; and Iraq, which was potentially a very important partner in previous wars and in pan-Arab plans, has been beaten both in the conventional and nonconventional fields, because the international community has been relentlessly pursuing Iraq's nonconventional capability. In this reality, al-Asad has been asking himself: What can be done to promote Syrian interests? Judging by his acts, he has apparently reached the conclusion that under these conditions, he would do better to join the negotiations, pose extreme demands, haggle without mercy, and try to obtain the best he can for Syria. His other option was to be possibly bypassed when the other parties sign political agreements and resolve their problems, and to be left all alone with the Golan Heights problem.

[Shlonsky] From the military point of view, Israel's situation in the Syrian context appears to be not bad at all. There is no Iraqi threat from the east, we are deployed 50 or 60 km away from Damascus, and Syria has lost its uninterrupted supply of Soviet weapons. From a purely military viewpoint, it can be said that the situation is excellent for the State of Israel.

[Baraq] Israel's strategic situation vis-a-vis Syria on its own, both with regard to the operational capability and—in Syria's view—to the overall strategic status—is good. At the same time, a war is no picnic. Despite the fact that I am totally confident in our capability to cope efficiently with the Syrian challenge if a test is forced on us, war is a hard thing, with casualties and a high cost in many ways, and we should neither wish it upon ourselves nor invite it in order to prove our superiority over the Syrians.

[Baum] We have just learned from the media that Israel has received from the United States 34 assault helicopters, as well as a significant addition to the prepositioning. Will this improve Israel's qualitative edge vis-a-vis over 70 F-15's that Saudi Arabia has received?

[Baraq] To this day, Saudi participation in actual warfare against Israel was not significant, although they did deploy troops, both with Syria and, at certain points, with Jordan. The addition of F-15's to Saudi Arabia is very grave, from our viewpoint, from the point of view of the prospect [preceding word in English] of warfare. At the same time, the addition the United States has agreed to grant us—both the items you mentioned and other things, which will be amplified later, when cooperation expands—are very important for Israel's security and

will augment its capability to stand up to challenges if and when required to do so.

[Shlonsky] Do you believe the U.S. grants have a deterrent value?

[Baraq] They again emphasize the special nature of the defense ties between the State of Israel and the United States, which have existed for many years. These special ties were underlined during the recent visit of the prime minister and defense minister to the United States, in his meetings with President Bush and senior U.S. Administration officials. During that visit, he held discussions on matters which have just materialized; a series of additional issues was finalized concerning Israel's qualitative edge and its possible incorporation in the antiballistic and surface-to-surface missile defense plan initiated by the United States in contexts broader than that of the Middle East; and the strengthening of ties between the IDF and U.S. Army branches was also discussed.

[Shlonsky] You have referred to Israel's military edge. Do you expect the nuclear threat to grow in the next few years? It was tangible in Iraq until recently, and now there is talk of Iran, perhaps Syria as well.

[Baraq] As you said before, right now and in the short range, the danger of a comprehensive confrontation is reduced, both as a result of the fact that our most immediate neighbors are either at peace or negotiating peace with us, and because Iraq has been beaten and is now turning inward, preoccupied with survival. In these conditions, there is a much reduced danger of an Arab-initiated comprehensive confrontation.

In the long range, however, there are two sources of hazard. The first is the danger that the political negotiations reach deadlock and the Arabs continue their conventional buildup, which we are witnessing even now, in parallel to the negotiations. The second hazard is a few years later, when the Arab effort to achieve nuclear capability may reach fruition. All these are disagreeable developments with far-reaching results for us, and in a sense, they emphasize the need for the policy which Israel has persistently pursued for many years, in particular in recent years, namely: continuing the military buildup, which allows us to prepare ourselves for any possible confrontations on the one hand, and keeping an open mind for peace opportunities—if they can be exhausted without endangering vital security interests—on the other.

[Baum] The deputy chief of staff said a year ago that we must prevent the nuclear threat at any cost. Do you believe today that action should be taken to avert this threat at any cost, or is that impossible in the present situation?

[Baraq] We must be ready to make extensive efforts in various spheres to reduce and postpone the attainment of nuclear capability by an Arab country. The political aspect is the main tool of this effort: international cooperation in the sphere of intelligence and in political spheres, with the objective of stopping these developments. Then there is the intelligence aspect. Marginally, there can also be an operational aspect. We must remember, however, that after all, we have no way of knowing today what the situation will be like in 10 years, and I do not think that we should make advance decisions or speculative assumptions on what we will do in certain contingencies 10 years from now. [passage omitted]

Military Cooperation With Serbia Alleged

JN2809163292 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Sep 92 p 13

[By Muhammad Karkuti]

[Text] London—Ever since the fragmentation of the former Yugoslavia, which now has been expelled from the United Nations, a new quiet, secret relationship has begun between the new Serbian entity and Israel, the seeds of which were sown in the former Yugoslav republics even before the collapse of the Yugoslav coalition. Therefore, the statement made by Shaykh Ahmad Salih Julakovich, mufti of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina [name and title as published] that Israel is training Serbian youths in military operations in some camps in the occupied Arab territories did not shock observers who have been following the very special relationship between Serbia and Israel.

AL-ITTIHAD has obtained information that over the past three months Israel has sent more than 100 of its officers to Serbia to supervise military training. These officers established military training centers in various areas of Serbia, are working there as advisers to Serbian commanders in these camps, are providing them with intelligence information on Bosnia-Hercegovina from the Israeli intelligence organ "Mosad," and are training Serbians in street fighting.

Military sources at the British Ministry of Defense, who preferred anonimity owing to the sensitivity of the issue, told AL-ITTIHAD that a group of Israeli officers who participated in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 is taking part in the training in street fighting, deriving its expertise from experience in Lebanon, and that it has graduated three batches, one every month. These graduates immediately participate in the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina which has been raging for three months.

According to information available to AL-ITTIHAD, the Israeli Government that proposed, then began, to train Serbian youth in the occupied territories during the first two months of the war between Bosnia and Serbia, later preferred to conduct the military training in Serbia in an attempt to keep these training exercises secret, which can be exposed easily in the occupied Arab territories.

Earlier information obtained by AL-ITTIHAD confirms that Tel Aviv had signed a security, intelligence, and military cooperation agreement with Serbia. Tel Aviv prefers to keep this agreement secret until things in the

former Yugoslav republics become clear and until the Bosnian-Serbian conflict shapes up along clear lines. This stance is especially true since Tel Aviv currently does not endorse the opening of political fronts against European countries, particularly the EEC states, which will not approve of any foreign intervention in Serbia, a country that has borders EEC states.

Further information notes that Serbia has officially asked Tel Aviv to help it develop the Serbian intelligence services. It also requested the establishment of some kind of a special and secret relationship between the Serbian and Israeli intelligence services, in view of the fact that Serbian officials are old admirers of the Mosad's history and ability.

AL-ITTIHAD conveyed this information to sources at the British Foreign Office, which stressed that Britain is watching developments in Israeli-Serbian relations closely and does not approve of many aspects of this relationship. London, however, is waiting for the picture to become clear before it raises the matter with its partners in the EEC, which now is cosponsoring with the United Nations the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the former Yugoslav republics, the sources said.

According to British Foreign Office sources, London, like all other European capitals, will not stand by idly at a time when developments in the international arena do not allow for any international or regional tension. Everything now hinges on the development and extension of this relationship, which will emerge on the surface soon.

2,700 Houses Sold in Campaign in Territories

TA2409174992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 92 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] Some 2,700 houses have been sold to date as part of the "Settling the Heartland" campaign launched by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Some 1,250 of them had been built with Housing and Construction Ministry budgets, while another 1,450 apartments had been built by private firms. Dani Shukrun, the campaign manager, said that 3,400 of the 6,400 houses put up for sale had been built by private firms.

He pointed out that the contractors were not eager to sell the houses. They would prefer the government to fulfill its commitment to purchase them, which would save marketing costs, adjustment to the residential building input index, and discounts requested by customers.

In reply to a question by HA'ARETZ, Shukrun said that since the elections, the number of prospective purchasers had dropped to 10 a day, compared to 30 to 40 prior to the elections.

The number of signed purchasing contracts increased monthly from May to July, declined sharply in August, and has slightly recovered in September. Some 594 people signed contracts in May, 279 in June, 864 in July, only 189 in August, and 324 so far in September.

A total of 5,325 applications were registered in the campaign's offices. This figure only includes offices in regional councils and communal settlements; towns operated their own offices. The highest number of houses was sold in Ma'ale Adumim (600 of the 886 put up for sale), 400 in Efrat, and 280 in Ari'el.

Some 632 houses have been sold so far in the Shomron Regional Council, 268 in the Binyamin Regional Council, 149 in the Hof 'Aza Regional Council, 160 in the Har Hevron Regional Council, 51 in the Gush 'Etzyon Regional Council, 60 in Qiryat Arba', and 50 in Bet Arye.

Housing campaign staffers point out that settlements such as 'Eli and Qedumim in Samaria and Nisanit in the Gaza District scored a great success. Some 120 houses were sold in 'Eli and 90 in Nisanit. In Kfar Darom, all 24 houses offered were sold. Some 150 houses were sold in Qedumim, and 50 in Elon More.

Following the sale of 22 houses, the settlement of Brakha will double its size from 22 to 44 inhabited houses.

Most of the prospective customers were secular Israelis seeking to move to mixed or secular settlements. Most of their applications were rejected owing to the fact that 85 percent of the settlements in the territories are religious. Only a fraction of the secular Israelis who approached the information centers ultimately ended up buying houses; most purchases were made by religious Israelis. Analysis of the applications shows that 50 percent wanted to move to a communal settlement while the remaining 50 percent wanted to move to an urban location. Some 25 of the applicants described themselves as religious, 46 as secular, and 25 percent as moderately religious.

King, al-Asad Discuss Restoring Unity to Arabs

JN2709163892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] His Excellency Syrian Arab Republic President Hafiz al-Asad made a telephone call to His Majesty King Husayn at noon today in which he was reassured about the health of his majesty and congratulated him on recovering and on his safe return home.

His majesty the king expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to his brother His Excellency President al-Asad and wished him good health and continued progress to the fraternal Syrian people.

The two leaders exchanged views and consultations on current Arab issues, particularly the restoration of cohesion to the Arab fold in order to confront the fateful challenges that face the Arab nation.

Paper Warns of Syrian-Israeli 'Separate Deals'

JN2709083092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Sep 92 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Beware of a New "Camp David" in the Region"]

[Text] Apparently, fears of concluding new "Camp David" accords in the region are sweeping popular and official Palestinian and Arab quarters.

These fears are growing as the bilateral negotiations appear to be heading toward dividing the peace process and concluding separate Syrian-Israeli agreements, while negotiations on other Arab tracks have not made any noteworthy progress.

If Israel indeed succeeds in reaching a unilateral settlement with Syria or any of the other Arab parties taking part in the peace process, then it will succeed in blowing up Arab coordination and dismembering Arab solidarity between the Arab cordon states.

This would weaken the Arab position and Arab negotiating cards, which would lead, in turn, to losing Arab rights and occupied Arab territories. This requires a pause to consider this serious development in the course of the bilateral negotiations and putting an end to slipping toward concluding separate deals similar to the Camp David accords, which shattered the unified Arab position and created serious disputes in the Arab ranks.

Here, it should be observed that reaching a unilateral Syrian-Israeli agreement would remove Syria from the circle of the Arab-Israeli conflict and give Israel a chance to liquidate the Palestine question and deny the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Yasir 'Arafat was very clear when he warned of a new Camp David in the region. Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir was also right when he warned against concluding separate deals that would weaken the Arab position.

It is known that the peace process was launched on the basis of a U.S. initiative based on international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338. If the negotiations depart from the course of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, then the Arab parties should withdraw from the peace process before it is too late.

King Expresses Gratitude for Homecoming Reception

JN2609201492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said: I am unable to express my feelings over the outpouring of true and noble sentiments shown me by the big well-knit family. God be praised for he was so generous with me in this life that he allowed me to see what reassured me regarding the efforts and endeavors I have made to serve my nation.

His majesty the king added: I hope that God will allow us to continue our work, construction endeavors, and efforts to lay down foundation stones so that we may set an example to be emulated by our brothers in this part of the world and to others in the world at large.

During a meeting with a delegation of Palestinian figures representing the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at the Royal Court this afternoon, his majesty the king went on to say: The only objective and purpose we have is to perform our duty so that all wishes of our nation may be fulfilled.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his deep thanks to the delegation members for their heartfelt and sincere congratulations. He also asked them to relay heartfelt greetings and sincere thanks to the brothers under Israeli occupation, whose plight will not last long, God willing.

Former Jerusalem Mayor Anwar al-Khatib had earlier delivered a speech, affirming that the two banks were reassured when news of his majesty the king's recovery was received. His majesty the king, he added, was, has been, and will remain a symbol of the unity of the two banks. He went on to say: Jerusalem, which you love and which also loves you, prayed to God, through the lobbies of its great mosque—which you spared the humiliation of begging—for your safety; and God answered its prayers. Jerusalem is full of Hashemite history. Furthermore, the Hashemites' stands in defense of its Arabism are well-known stands and are inscribed with letters of light. He asserted that what has taken place in the two banks is tantamount to an honest and true referendum showing that the unity between the two banks is still intact. We hope that this unity will return as it was in the past.

Former Jerusalem Mayor Anwar al-Khatib said: The spontaneous outpouring of emotions, when unleashed, surpassed all expectations. This is a referendum on the magnitude of allegiance, loyalty, and affection harbored. Some governments recruit people for receiving heads of

state through temptation and intimidation. However, what happened to us showed that the government's difficult task lay in curbing the advancing crowds, arresting the masses' outburst, and controlling the enthusiasm raging within their hearts.

Welcome Called 'Vote of Allegiance'

JN2509091392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 92 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The rousing welcome and euphoric celebration that greeted His Majesty King Husayn upon his return to home Thursday was not only a sign of his huge personal popularity among Jordaninas but was also a clear indication that he remains by far the biggest and most respected political institution in the country, according to observers and analysts.

The spontaneous turnout of an estimated one million Jordanians to greet the King Thursday could only be used as a yardstick of King Husayn's popularity among Jordanins, these analysts say, adding that no event in Jordan's history has galvanised as many people as the King's recovery and homecoming has done.

Political analysts in particular were keen to point out that the King's popularity will prove to be the needed umbrella under which the work of political parties will be organised and under which all political differences will be solved.

"It was apparent that whether belonging to Islamist, leftist or centrist traditionalist political ideologies there seemed to be consensus over the king possessing the higher political ground among the great majority of Jordanians," an analyst said. "It's like a new national charter."

"This is a national plebesite on Hashemite rule in which the population declared that al-Husayn is the solution," Minister of Labour 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said in an apparent stab at the motto of the biggest and best organised Muslim Brotherhood movement—"Islam is the solution."

Another senior official agreed that the turnout had political significance but said that the king's political influence in the country cannot be compared to that of political parties in the country because "he is above it all."

And analysts agree that the king does serve as a unifying source for all Jordanians and is a symbol of that unity rather than a standard for comparison among political forces. They also point out that the "vote of allegiance" that the king received Thursday was added proof of his success as "father" of his Jordanian family, a concept that the king himself has time and again highlighted in his addressess to the nation.

"The king is the father to all those parties," said the senior official. "He is the father of the opposition in as much as he is the father of those who are mainstream."

Many analysts also point to the factors that led to this huge political popularity for the king include the introduction of democracy and his position during the Gulf crisis...

The fact that this tumultuous welcome by the Jordanian people for their leader came three years after the introduction of democracy could only indicate how positively it was received and how much it is appreciated by the people, according to officials and analysts alike.

"This atmosphere proves the advantage of democracy and is the first of its fruits," said another senior official echoing the thoughts of many analysts who also believed that the poeple "turned out at the first opportunity to thank him and to tell him that they love him for all he had done for them," as one analyst put it.

"To the background knowledge that people were not forced to come out to the streets by any invisible hand one can only say that Thursday's turnout was historic," said a seasoned analyst.

Abu-Jabir on Talks, Possible 'Unilateral Solution'

JN2509142492 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Sep 92 pp 3, 17

[Text] Beirut, PETRA—Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has stressed that the Palestine question wili remain the essence of the Arab Israeli conflict, despite the ramifications represented by Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and even though these ramifications are no less important than the conflict itself.

In an exclusive interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR published yesterday, the foreign minister said that Syria and Jordan insist on a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution within the framework of the current Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The foreign minister did not rule out the emergence of a unilateral solution within the context of a political settlement to the Middle East crisis resulting from negotiations along the Lebanese, Palestinian, Jordanian, or Syrian track.

He denied any link between Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and the Gulf crisis and its results. He admitted, however, that the crisis had an impact on starting the negotiations in Madrid.

He said progress has been very slow in coming along all tracks of the bilateral talks because the conflict is long-standing and very complicated, and the results need time since these negotiations deal with sacred land and inalienable basic rights for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians, as stipulated by relevant UN resolutions.

Dr. Abu-Jabir expressed the belief that there has been an overall positive change in the political atmosphere of the region and in the course of negotiations after Yitzhaq Rabin came to power in Israel, and following the mounting U.S. attention given to the conflict and the importance of reaching a settlement.

He said that the peace process in the region is not necessarily connected personally with the U.S. President or former Secretary of State James Baker, but through them the process has gained a special dynamism and the U.S. role has become effective. If things continue as they are, and if Bush and Baker remain at the head of the U.S. Administration, this will help much. The Arabs want peace, and it now seems that the Israelis also want peace.

Abu-Jabir said that coordination between the Arab parties to the peace negotiations is going along quite well, but each side has the right to plan and think for itself and for its future so that it bears responsibility for its decisions.

He pointed out that Jordanian-Palestinian relations will become clear following the results of peace negotiations and after elections are held in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Abu-Jabir reiterated Jordan's complete rejection of partitioning Iraq or harming its territorial integrity and the unity of its people, and said this is a general Arab position that was agreed upon during the latest meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo.

Iranian 'Conspiracy' Against Arab Nation Denounced

JN2909110792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Sep 92 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Costly Arrogance"]

[Text] Tehran will be mistaken if it imagines that the Arabism of the three occupied Arab islands is subject to discussion or negotiation, that the current talks in Abu Dhabi will turn these Arab islands into Persian islands, or that the United Arab Emirates is standing alone against the Iranian arrogance.

The disputes, differences, and even grudges dominating the pan-Arab reality cannot be greater than our awareness of the seriousness of the enemy schemes nor can they prevent us from seeking all ways and means to meet, even under the current situation, to affirm our rejection of any occupation of an Arab territory and our preparedness to resist the occupation whether it is in the Arabian Gulf region or in any other part of the Arab homeland.

Observers have said that the Iranian annexation of Abu Musa Island after its annexation of the two islands of Tunb al-Sughra and Tunb al-Kubra is Tehran's reward for participating in the hostile alliance against the Arab nation—an alliance which inflicted real disaster from which no Arab capital, regime, or state was spared.

Observers also said that this Iranian action, blessed by the United States and the rest of the Western states, is aimed at creating all the circumstances for an arms race in the Gulf region that would devour the remaining assets and impose hegemony over the region's oil resources to be spent on weapon deals that neither deter an occupier nor prevent an aggression.

The observers also said that Western, specifically U.S., silence over the Iranian action against the Arabism of the islands, is the current and future card to exert pressure on Tehran to remain under the canopy of the new world order and to become a pressure tool on the entire region.

All that has been said by this or that observer is true. The size of the conspiracy against our homeland and nation allows for the establishment of alliances between real and even imaginary enemies. It also allows for arrangements and practices serving this conspiracy.

Hence, we were not surprised when Washington and Tehran joined in the same trench against Baghdad and when the big satan embraced the fraternal angel against the people of Iraq, its accomplishments, history, and national and geographic unity. The convergence of grudges allows for such a meeting and alliance. However, this convergence is temporary because once the West has dealt a blow to the Arabs and Arabism, it will undertake the largest and most serious task of striking at Muslims and Islam. We hope Tehran realizes this fact after many circumstances have given it the chance to make such a realization. However, Tehran has adhered to its stand, which will neither serve it nor us.

Saudi Arabia's 'Memorandum of Advice' Viewed

JN2409200192 Amman AL-LIWA' in Arabic
23 Sep 92 p 12

[Text] A number of ulema, university professors, and personalities in Saudi Arabia have called for lifting all restrictions and instructions that would curb the activities of preachers and scholars, and for giving them the freedom to write, publish, and issue Islamic verdicts. They also called for giving preachers and scholars freedom of speech and recording tapes without license. They also stressed the need to present all rules and treaties to be enacted to the Supreme Ulema Council to verify their conformity with the rules and provisions of Islamic law.

In a document addressed to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz two months ago, the scholars also called for abrogating all military commitments and treaties that encroach on the state's sovereignty and independence. They called for not relying on any external military force whatsoever to defend the country and protect its security.

This document is considered a detailed statement presented by the Islamists in Saudi Arabia to King Fahd, in which they discussed 10 major topics, including the state's economic, social, and administrative system;

human rights; the judiciary; foreign policy; and the role of Muslim scholars in Saudi Arabia.

This document, which was called "A Memorandum of Advice," was signed by over 100 scholars, preachers, university professors, intellectuals, and personalities. It was commended by four famous Saudi scholars: Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Jibrin, Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah, Shaykh Safar al-Hawali, and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Jalali.

Observers considered this document an extension of the scholars' statement, which was presented one and a half years ago and which created mammoth local and world clamor. The memorandum is considered the first experiment in presenting Islamic philosophy on pressing issues in the world, such as human rights, freedom of expression, independent judiciaries, and drawing a distinction between legislative and executive authorities. Observers believe that the document is an electoral platform or working statement for the modern Islamic current in Saudi Arabia.

The memorandum shows the weakness of the role of scholars in public life, their failure to make independent decisions, and the restrictions imposed on them to prevent them from carrying out their duties and from holding public seminars and lectures that tackle topical issues. The restrictions also aim at controlling what is being said and published.

The scholars also called on King Fahd to give embassies and consulates abroad a role to play in the call for Islam and to establish special radio and television stations broadcasting in various languages of the world to call for Islam and teach its provisions.

The memorandum recommended that existing regulations be revised and all legislative articles that are unreliable or not duly ascertained, be revised. It recommended work toward replacing the punishments stipulated in current rules under the Islamic shari'ah penal and discretionary punishment [al-ta'zir] code, or for leaving such cases to shari'ah judges. The memorandum said that instructions to judges should be the prerogative of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Concerning dignity and human rights, the ulema affirmed the need to stop dismissals of certain state employees, judges, and members of university staffs, and to stop preventing numerous preachers, imams, and thinkers from speaking. They noted the need for the security departments to stop spying, eavesdropping, searching homes, opening letters, and sometimes beating and torturing suspects.

The memorandum deals with points in the Saudi administrative system, the most important being the fact that many aspects of the administrative system have not progressed in accordance with people's needs, that there are no regulations for replacing senior state officials in accordance with their abilities and level of efficiency, in addition to conferring epithets on senior officials and figures such as highness, excellency, eminence without any legal ground or academic qualifications. There is a trend toward parochialism and sectarianism in certain government bodies and establishments, in addition to the spreading of bribes, corruption, and financial gifts between senior government officials—cases which have gone unpunished, the memorandum added. There is also outright nepotism and a lack of administrative discipline.

Regarding the monetary and financial situation, the memorandum notes shari'ah violations in the Treasury, the buying of bonds with interest from world banks and the U.S. Treasury, and the imposition of custom and tariff duties, which are proscribed by shari'ah law, in addition to spending large funds on infidel nations, such as the offering of more than $2 billion to the leaders of the Algerian coup under the pretext of backing their collapsing economy, and the promise to extend thousands of millions of dollars to the secular Egyptian regime, among other similar regimes.

To correct these mistakes, the memorandum recommended stopping all foreign aid, loans, and grants to infidel states and regimes; halting all kinds of spending on areas considered to be a waste of money, such as playgrounds, exhibitions, and elaborate palaces; separating alms from state money; denying license to any new usurious bank; and liquidating the existing usurious transactions.

The memorandum also recommends that the building of huge palaces with Muslims' money should be halted.

Regarding the Army, the memorandum said that the huge budgets of the various military sectors are not proportional to the number of military personnel or their potential. The memorandum also referred to the absence of jihad education, retiring large numbers of Army personnel at early ages despite the dire need for their military expertise, signing security and protection treaties with states that cannot be trusted, and the need to end the presence of foreign states' military equipment and forces in Saudi Arabia following the Gulf crisis—a presence which will affect Saudi sovereignty.

The memorandum also tackled the media situation in the country, concentrating on the media's relationship to the people's worshipping. Hypocrisy and lies, it said, will also be entrenched in society and the concept of true religion and its comprehensive provisions will be distorted if Islamic teachings are dealt with selectively and if platforms introduced by Islam, such as Friday sermons and feasts, are limited. Regarding foreign relations, the memorandum calls for the immediate removal of all phenomena conflicting with Islamic teachings from the state's embassies, for adopting the policy of Islamic unity, for supporting Islamic causes in all international forums, for appointing only trusted people as ambassadors, and for increasing scholarships at state universities and Arab language institutes for Muslim students from all countries.

Sufi Leader Warns of 'Reckless' Muslim Leaders

PM2509112992 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

[Salamah Ni'mat report: "Jordanian Fundamentalist Leader Warns of Civil War"]

[Excerpts] Amman—Shaykh Hazim Abu-Ghazalah, spiritual leader of the "Dar al-Qur'an" [House of the Koran], yesterday warned that "reckless leaders" of the Islamic movement in Jordan who are seeking to seize power could lead the country to civil war similar to the 1970 war between the authorities and armed Palestinian organizations.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Shaykh Abu-Ghazalah said that the Muslim Brotherhood movement includes "mature leaders from the prudent old generation which wants good for the country. As for the new generation, it adopts numerous ideas and trends and it does not lack reckless elements who seize opportunities. If that happens, God forbid, it will bring back the calamities of the seventies (civil war)."

The leader of the Dar al-Qur'an, to which tens of thousands of citizens belong, added that his group is a "Sufi movement eager to keep away from politics and partisan action. It is not interested in leadership, power, or anything that diverts believers' hearts from worshiping God."

He emphasized that Dar al-Qur'an severed its links with deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish some 10 years ago because of "their deviation from the call [al-da'wah] and their engagement in politics." He stressed that his group "has nothing to do with the two deputies' political actions and positions," which he described as "personal positions which have absolutely nothing to do with the Sufi movement." [passage omitted]

He criticized Iran, describing it as "a Shi'ite state alien to Muslim masses, even though it complies with the Islamic shari'ah in some matters." He said that the Shiites in Afghanistan, whom Iran is supporting, "are the ones responsible for the massacres taking place among Muslims, and had it not been for them, these massacres would not have occurred."

It is worth noting that Shaykh Abu-Ghazalah, who rarely speaks to the press, returned recently from a tour of Islamic centers in Holland and Denmark.

Detention of Deputies, Press Freedom Viewed

JN2509091092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 92 p 4

[By Muhammad I. 'Ayish until recently a professor of journalism at the University of Yarmuk, and currently working for the Nur al-Husayn Foundation]

[Text] The detention of two Islamist members of the Lower House of Parliament on charges of illegally setting up an armed organisation and hoarding and transporting weapons has stirred controversy over the wisdom of media reporting of a case still under investigation by the prosecutor general.

Because no information has been officially released on the findings of the investigation (which has not been completed yet), considerable amount of speculation has developed on the case in the country's print media, especially those thriving on yellow journalism and sensationalism.

To end the press game of "guessing," the government has stepped in, invoking a 1959 criminal proceedings law which places certain penalties (fines and imprisonment) on editors and reporters for publishing information which could influence judges, witnesses or court staff entrusted with investigation. In one way or another, the manner in which this situation would be handled by the press is bound to put to test its widely-recognised and long held commitment to playing a socially-responsible role in our democratic system. As for the government, the challenges at hand is how to bring about a fair trial, not vulnerable to mass-mediated insinuations, for the two deputies, without serious infringements on press freedom.

By brandishing a 1959 criminal law in the face of news-hungry reporters and editors poised for publishing information on the Shubaylat-Qirrish case, the government's behaviour seems to be based on few legitimate grounds. First, reporters' race for news about the case seems to have been motivated by their routine unquenchable thirst for information that they hope would help expand their readership base, more than by concerns about the public's right to know.

The press has had no access to records, documents, material evidence, and to the two deputies after their arrest to be able to make factual judgement on whether both were guilty or innocent. Talking to family members and relatives of the men would rather keep public discussions of the case shrouded in overwhelming sentimentalism, thus precluding the rationality needed in this type of delicate situation.

Second, letting public discussions of the case proceed as such would create what looks like a press trial of this case, leading perhaps to conclusions totally different from the verdict of the court-administered trial.

Some newspaper columnists and reporters even suggested that the arrest of a deputy of the calibre of Mr. Shubaylat was a deliberate and carefully planned attempt by the government to deal a blow to what seems to be a growing Islamic challenge in Jordan. On the other hand, other media people argued that it is exactly because of the important stature of Mr. Shubaylat that they would think the arrest of the deputy was motivated by solid incriminating evidence. A gap between media-created public expectations of the nature of the case and

the actual outcome of the investigation could potentially have serious repercussions on the democratic process in Jordan.

Third, and here seems to lie the most legitimate government concern, is that massive speculative publicity about the case could tend to affect the manner in which trial judges, court staff and other investigators view the issue at hand. It is true that court verdicts are expected to be solely based on available concerete evidence; yet, the potential bearing of published information bearing of published information on the case remains grave.

For the press, the consideration of these legitimate concerns by the government about a fair trial for the two deputies should in no way be interpreted as tantamount to submission to gag orders prohibiting all publicity on the case.

The new government's caution to journalists does not seem to preclude the publication of certain statements made by the prosecutor general or any of his office staff, or by the lawyers defending the two deputies.

The government step should in fact serve as a catalyst for journalists to always verify their sources of information, reconsider their selection of sources and eschew extra-sensational coverage so as to not negatively affect the process of investigation. While such journalistic practices may not be professionally sanctioned, there is no law which prohibits them from doing so in normal and less delicate situations, and thus these practices are protected by law in Jordan.

If the press really believe in possessing the minimum of social accountability, this is quite an opportunity to translate such convictions into reality, regardless of the superficial curbs on its freedom. In this particular case, the societal interest in having a far trial for the two deputies is far more overriding than in irresponsible media reporting of the case.

This principle seems to be applied by U.S. courts handling press publicity of ongoing trials. Although the U.S. Supreme Court has over the years stricken down several lower courts' rulings embodying prior restraints on press reporting of trials, it is widley held that where criminal trials are pending, in progress, or concluded, restrictive orders may be approved, especially where there is evidence of "a deep and bitter pattern of community prejudice," creating a clear and present danger to the fair administration of justice.

The dilemma facing the government as it seeks to enforce this restrictive order is that only journalists operating inside Jordan would be liable to prosecutions in cases of violations. Given the ubiquity of modern mass communications, and the massive exposure of Jordanians to externally-originated broadcasts and print media, the war of insinuations is likely to stay alive; Jordanians would continue to be informed on the matter; and not much could be done about it.

Clashes, 'Heavy' Israeli Shelling Occur in South

NC2909070992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Israeli attacks on the south escalated early today, taking in the central and eastern sectors and Iqlim al-Tuffah. Tension prevails in al-Nabatiyah, the environs of which have been coming under Israeli artillery shelling since 0645 today, particularly the Army barracks there.

Kafr Rumman and its eastern hills, al-Litani river, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under heavy Israeli artillery fire at 0430 today. At 0500, shelling extended to Iqlim al-Tuffah, centering on the towns of Mlikh and al-Luwayzah.

In the central sector, fierce clashes are raging between resistance men and occupation forces following a resistance attack on an enemy position in Rshaf. Our correspondent in Haris has details:

Islamic Resistance men occupied the Tallat Rshaf position in Bint Jubayl district at 0430 today after killing garrison personnel. They set the position on fire and killed everyone manning it. At 0430 today—Tuesday, 29 September—an Islamic Resistance group attacked the Tallat Rshaf position in the central sector. After 30 minutes of fierce clashes, the resistance men seized control of the position and set fire to it after killing everyone manning it. [repetition as heard] Resistance fighters attacked positions in the Haddathah hills, Jabal Humayd, and Bayt Yahun, firing mortars and RPG's. Resistance casualties are unknown because of the heavy shelling in the area. Fierce battles involving various weapons are raging between resistance fighters, who are withdrawing, and enemy forces and militia, who are conducting frenzied shelling of Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haris, Tibnin, and Kafra. Several houses in these towns were hit and smoke can be seen billowing from the Tallat Rshaf position. A cloud of dense smoke covers the area. Shells are falling at the rate of 20 a minute. Faris Haniti's house in Tibnin was hit. Citizen 'Ali Husayn Sawli, 21, from Haddathah, was wounded and taken to Tibnin for treatment. This is Muhammd Rubay', NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the central sector.

[The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0555 GMT on 29 September in a similar report adds: "The shelling in the south intensified a short time ago. Kafra and Yatar are coming under heavy shelling. Helicopters are participating. Combing operations continue. The bodies of four gunmen have been found at the battle scene."]

4 Hizballah, 2 SLA Men Killed at Rshaf

NC2909083692 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Four terrorists were killed in an attack by a Hizballah group on the South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Rshaf at 0500 today. Two SLA soldiers were martyred and two others wounded, one of them fairly seriously.

Our military correspondent reported that the terrorists accompanied their attack with artillery shelling of SLA positions in the eastern and western sectors. SLA and Israeli Army artillery are shelling the terrorists' positions to silence them. One person has been killed and five others wounded so far.

Personal weapons, grenades, rockets, and large pools of blood were found near the bodies of the dead terrorists, confirming that there were other casualties in their ranks.

We have learned that the SLA forces in the area discovered more terrorists' bodies.

[In a brief report on the incident at Rshaf, Paris AFP in English at 0729 GMT on 29 September adds the following: "The Islamic Resistance, Hizballah's guerrilla wing, announced in Beirut it had attacked an Israeli position at Rshaf 'killing and wounding all its occupants.'

["The statement said the guerrillas fought an artillery duel with Israeli and SLA forces as the 'enemy sent reinforcements.'"]

UNIFIL Soldier Killed

NC2909094392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY contacted Timor Goksel, official spokesman of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], who said tension is prevailing in the south, adding that the Irish checkpoint in al-Jummayzah has been closed after being shelled. An Irish sergeant was killed and another was wounded. Goksel said there were incidents in Kafra and Haris, but these were resolved by the UNIFIL command.

Occupation forces in al-Zaffatah are continuing to shell 'Arab Salim, the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, Jabal Safi, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Jba', al-Luwayzah, and Mlita. Several houses have been damaged. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent in the south reports that Tyre came under heavy 120-mm and 155-mm artillery shelling from the occupation forces' positions inside the occupied border strip. The shelling is focused on al-Bas center and archaeological sites in the town. The Army replied by opening fire after the shelling spread to the area of the Lebanese Army barracks. Four shells fell on the coast in al- Shawaghir area in front of the Red Cross center in Tyre, but there were no casualties. [passage omitted]

The occupation forces closed the Zumarayya crossing point. Intensive movement of Israeli and South Lebanese Army armored vehicles has been observed inside the border strip, particularly in the sectors of Kawkaba,

Suq al-Khan, and Zummarayya. Israeli armored roadblocks have also been seen on the Marj 'Uyun-Suq al-Khan road, where civilian vehicles and travellers' identities are being checked.

Clashes Reportedly Subside

NC2909081692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Zionist attacks on the southern areas were renewed this morning. Since 0500, Kafr Rumman and Kafr Tibnit have been subjected to intensive artillery shelling. The resistance responded by exploding a roadside bomb as an enemy patrol passed between Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir and al-Zaffatah at dawn today. Zionist forces and their agent militia cordoned off the area, blocking information about enemy losses.

A short time ago, our correspondent in the south reported that the Islamic Resistance fighters stormed an enemy position in Rshaf and killed its personnel. Other resistance groups attacked positions belonging to the enemy and its agents in (al-Zuhayrah), al-Jamusah, Haddathah, Jabal Humayd, Bra'shit, 'Alman, al- Shumariyah, and 'Ali al-Tahir.

[In a similar report, Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0730 GMT on 29 September adds the following: "The Lebanese Resistance flag has been fluttering since this morning on the Tallat Rshaf position in the central sector. Resistance fighters took this position at 0500 this morning and kept control of it for 90 minutes, when they withdrew after killing all those inside. Three resistance fighters were wounded, one of them dying later. The other two have been transported to a hospital outside the security strip."

[The same report adds: "The clashes stopped at 0830 and the shelling has since abated. One civilian was killed and eight others were wounded. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has placed troops on full alert."]

Hawi's Resignation From Communist Party Viewed

NC2809134392 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Sep 92 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] George Hawi has finally opted for resignation. Hawi, a well-known personality, has been Communist Party secretary general since 1979 and the party's central figure since the early seventies. His resignation announcement came in the following statement distributed by the party last night [16 September]:

"The Lebanese Communist Party's Central Committee has received a letter from Secretary General George Hawi, in which he announces his resignation from the General Secretariat. The Central Committee is in the process of studying the letter to announce its position on it along with the text of the letter."

What is the reason for the resignation at this particular time, and how did the crisis within the Communist Party go public? Various sources within the party believe that it all started with the party's sixth congress in January 1992, when two movements surfaced within the party ranks. The first, represented by Hawi, called for maintaining the party's traditional line to the opposition of the other movement, which called for radical changes in style and policy—to the point of changing the party name—to cope with the political developments in a post-civil-war Lebanon and a world without a Soviet Union.

The sources add that as a result of pressure by the Hawi wing, no decisive results were reached by the congress, which ended with cohabitation between the two movements. As a result, Hawi remained secretary general and Faruq Dahruj was elected deputy secretary general. The debate within the party continued, however, until the parliamentary elections, which put the party to a new test. Some members wanted to participate, while others wanted to boycott them. According to information, the poor showing by the party candidates in the elections backfired on Hawi and consolidated the opposition's cards. Thus, the resignation came as a result of the failure of Hawi's wing. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Addresses General Assembly on Peace

JN2809191092 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered Syria's speech at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly in New York today. He said: The Middle East region has not witnessed security or stability since the end of World War II because of the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its repercussions. However, the convening of the Madrid conference last year provided, for the first time, a historic and rare opportunity, as admitted by everybody, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which are binding and which should be implemented in accordance with the UN Charter.

The foreign minister added: Ten months after the Madrid conference, the whole world discovered that the peace talks between the Arab and Israeli sides were futile because of the intransigence and procrastination of the former Israeli prime minister, who publicly admitted after his defeat in the elections that he was planning to prolong the negotiations for another 10 years.

Al-Shar' regretted the fact that the recent round of talks in Washington ended without the Israeli side changing its way of dealing with the issue of the total withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. The foreign minister added: It seems as if the alleged change in the Rabin government's policies and priorities, compared to the Shamir government, lacks credibility and practice. He stressed that achieving peace in the Middle East has been based on Israel's inevitable withdrawal from all Arab territories—which Israel occupied by force and through war—and on a guarantee of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights.

The minister added: The road to a comprehensive and just peace is clear and well known, but Israel must actually choose this road. Any maneuvers to carry out partial withdrawals or phased steps will not bring peace to the region or Israel. He added: Syria has announced through its leader President Hafiz al-Asad that it wants an honorable peace that is acceptable to our people. It wants a peace that will not relinquish any grain of sand in the homeland, that will not concede any of our rights, and that will not encroach on the nation's dignity. We want the peace of the courageous—a peace which will continue and which will represent everyone's interests. If there are games and ambushes, no one can make Syria abandon its national and pan-Arab positions. Surrender is not in our dictionary. The foreign minister stressed that Syria wants a complete peace in return for a total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

Regarding Lebanon, al-Shar' said: The world is witnessing the disruption of states and the eruption of civil wars. Therefore, the exceptional achievements, which have saved the Lebanese people from the furnace of civil war and which enabled them to adopt a national accord through the efforts of its sons and the help and brotherly sacrifices of Syria, should be appreciated. The foreign minister hoped that promises to help Lebanon rebuild what was destroyed by the civil war and to support the fund established for that purpose will be fulfilled.

In conclusion, al-Shar' said that if the United Nations wants to meet the nations' aspirations and their hopes for the establishment of a new world order based on international legitimacy and the rule of international law and in which aggression and occupation are renounced, it should apply its charter and resolutions without any bias, exception, or double standards.

German Minister Arrives for Visit 26 Sep

JN2609173092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Damascus, 26 Sep (SANA)—Mr. Helmut Schaefer, the German minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening for a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was greeted at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; senior Foreign Ministry officials; Syria's ambassador in Bonn; and the German ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Begins Talks With Qaddur

JN2709160792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 sep 92

[Text] The official talks between Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Helmut Schaefer, German minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation began at the Foreign Ministry building at 1100 today. The talks were attended by the directors of the Western European Department, the Economic Department, and the Cultural Department at the Foreign Ministry; Syrian Ambassador in Bonn Sulayman Haddad; and German Ambassador in Damascus Georg Hermann Schlingensiepen.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, as well as developments in the region and the current peace process.

Meets With Khaddam

JN2709182392 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with Helmut Schaefer, German minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation at 1730 today. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Syrian Ambassador in Bonn Sulayman Haddad; and the German ambassador in Damascus. The talks centered on the situation in the region, as well as bilateral relations.

Meets With al-Asad

JN2809135692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad met with Helmut Schaefer, the German minister of state for foreign affairs, at 1015 today. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Syrian Ambassador in Bonn Sulayman Haddad; the German ambassador in Damascus; and the director of the Middle East Department at the German Foreign Ministry.

The talks centered on the situation in the region, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Concludes Visit, Departs 28 Sep

JN2809145792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Damascus, 28 Sep (SANA)—Helmut Schaefer, the German minister of state for foreign affairs and his delegation left Damascus at noon today at the end of a three-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Schaefer said that fruitful and beneficial talks were held during the visit, ending with a meeting today with President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Paper on Need for 'Comprehensive' Peace Solution

JN2809064592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 28 Sep 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the sixth round of peace talks in Washington, stressing that a comprehensive solution on all Arab fronts is a constant principle in Syria's pan-Arab course and an unchanging Syrian policy. The paper says that Syria has frequently stressed this policy in all its moves, talks, contacts, and stands. Syria insists that this principle is the only real basis for achieving success in the peace process.

The paper indicates that this principle featured prominently in the document that Syria presented to the sixth round of talks in Washington. In an attempt to circumvent this principle, Israel had no choice but to request a 10-day suspension in the talks so its delegation could return to Tel Aviv for new instructions.

TISHRIN explains that Israel continues maneuvering to avert the requirements of a comprehensive solution, which Syria insists on it and stresses it in accordance with the principles of right, justice, and international legitimacy. The paper adds: Hence we can understand and interpret the feverish Israeli attempts to market ideas of partial solutions, phased settlements, and separate agreements. At the same time, we can stress that while Israel propagates such ideas, it knows in advance that its ideas and maneuvers are doomed to failure because of Syria's constant policy and insistence on not relinquishing one inch of the occupied Arab territories. Just like the Golan Heights—the West Bank, Gaza Strip, southern Lebanon, and Jerusalem are all occupied Arab territories that must be returned in full.

TISHRIN says: As much as it is interested in exposing the Israeli mines and removing them from the path of the peace process, Syria is equally interested in promoting and strengthening the Arab position on the basis of solidarity, consultation, coordination, and not being dragged behind Israeli attempts and the Rabin government's maneuvers.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria is not in the habit of changing its policies or rearranging its priorities, which are the result of a pioneering and honorable pan-Arab stand and real adherence to Arab rights without any relinquishment, concessions, or bargains.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Casting doubts on the Syrian policy and adherence to a comprehensive, just solution on all Arab fronts without exception serves nobody but Israel, which is trying to drive a wedge in the Arab body and to sow discord among the Arabs, especially among the Arab parties to the peace process. This is an objective of the Israeli policy for which the Rabin government is working in order to be able to dictate its terms and to avert the just, comprehensive solution.

India

Mosad Said Helping Indian Service in Kashmir

NC2909093592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The Hezb al-Mujahidin Movement of Kashmir yesterday announced that men from Israel's spy organization Mosad have arrived in the area disguised as European and American tourists to help the Indian security forces crush the Kashmiri mujahidin. The movement has stated that the Kashmiri mujahidin will arrest any foreigner seen in Kashmir after Thursday [1 October] pending investigation. The Kashmiri mujahidin haves told hoteliers not to let foreigners stay in their hotels after the deadline.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Resigns 29 Sep

BK2909080292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. N. Janardhan Reddy, has resigned. He met the governor, Mr. Krishna Kant, today and submitted his resignation. It may be recalled that Mr. Reddy's resignation comes after the high court judgment on the private medical colleges issue.

ID System Approved To Check Illegal Entry

BK2809130892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] A proposal by the center for the introduction of identity cards for all residents in the border districts to effectively deal with infiltration from Bangladesh was endorsed by the conference of chief ministers of the concerned states held in New Delhi today. A resolution adopted unanimously at the conference said that large-scale illegal migration from Bangladesh has led to serious problems and an effective strategy and action plan is necessary to check it. The conference was attended by the chief ministers of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizorman and representatives from Manipur, Nagaland, and Delhi.

Addressing the conference, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, listed the steps taken by the center to check the menace.

Pawar Opens Seminar on Indian Ocean Cooperation

BK2909093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The defense minister has called upon the Indian Ocean littoral states to cooperate with India in the exploitation of marine and sea bed resources. Opening a two-day international naval seminar, Indian Ocean—Challenges and Opportunities, in New Delhi today, Mr. Sharad Pawar said they should insure that the Indian Ocean remains a zone of peace. He said the Indian Navy has no extra-oceanic designs and joint naval exercises are being held with friendly countries for building up mutual confidence and good will. The defense minister said vast mineral resources waits to be exploited from the sea bed. He reviewed the global scene and drew attention to the serious menace posed by religious fundamentalism.

The seminar organized by the Naval Foundation is dwelling upon the developments during the last two years which led to the emergence of a unipolar world. Twenty-eight delegates from India and other countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Indonesia and Singapore are taking part.

Importance of Stronger Naval Force Examined

BK2909095792 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 92 p 11

[First installment of article by Vice-Admiral K.K. Nayyar: "Maritime Defence-I; Bigger Role for Navy"]

[Text] After the initial post-independence spurt in the force levels of the Navy, culminating in the acquisition of the aircraft carrier Vikrant in 1961, the Indian Navy went into a decline. Its share of the Defence budget plummeted from 12 per cent in 1960 to just over four per cent in 1965. It was only from the early 1970s onwards that serious recognition of the Navy's role in safeguarding the nation's security and maritime interests and the need to have a credible force began to manifest itself.

The Apex I group chaired by Mr D. P. Dhar recommended 11.7 per cent of the Defence allocation for Naval growth in the 1974-79 Plan period. This was further increased to 12.6 per cent by the Apex II group chaired by Mr P.N. Haksar in 1976. The plan mainly focussed on acquisition of ships and aircraft from abroad to overcome depletions in force levels due to obsolescence of old units. The 1980-85 plan continued to see augmentations in the Navy's force levels with the ordering of many ships and submarines.

It was really in the mid-1980s that the Navy's role gained full acceptability. A 15-year perspective plan for 1985-2000, prepared under the guidance of the then Minister of State for Defence, Mr Arun Singh, provided increasing share of the Defence budget in the next three five-year Defence Plans for the Navy. This represented a qualitative change in our security perceptions, recognising the rationale for a strong and credible Navy. The 1985-90 Plan accordingly saw confident moves to strengthen naval capability by creating long-term assets. These included the acquisition of a second aircraft carrier along with several Sea Harrier jet fighters, sanctioning of a large Naval Air Station at Arkonam, a new Naval Base at Karwar, opening of a second frigate building line at Calcutta in addition to the ongoing line at Bombay, starting an indigenous submarine building facility, initiation of work on possible production of a nuclear submarine by the turn of the century and leasing

of a nuclear submarine from the USSR in the interim to gain familiarity with the operations and management of such a vessel. This package was pushed through despite the fact that constraints in Defence funding were even then quite severe.

Today, this well-thought out strategy of naval growth appears to be seriously threatened and the Navy's role and mission seem to have come under a cloud. Questions which did not require any answers in the 1980s are again being asked. The submarine building programme, a major breakthrough on the indigenous front, has come to a halt with little prospect of putting it back on the rails. Chakra, the nuclear submarine acquired on lease from the erstwhile USSR, has been returned, without replacement. Whilst economic compulsions are, no doubt, having an impact on defence allocations, one gets the impression that the entire thrust and logic of Naval growth is floundering.

Yet, the security scene has not changed for the better. Pakistan remains as belligerent as ever; its nuclear capable profile has made things much more complex and uncertain. Apart from other factors, its geographical location places Pakistan in a very advantageous position to seriously interdict our seaborne oil supply lines from the Gulf. The importance of these oil supplies to our national interests is no less than what it is for the USA, Western Europe and Japan. As for China, its naval capability has increased considerably and it would be foolhardy not to take this into account. Its claim to the Spratly Islands is not something which can be brushed aside. Japan's maritime profile is also on the increase—her Naval budget exceeds India's total defence budget put together.

Nearer home, Navies of littoral countries like Iran are also getting stronger. It would be unwise to ignore these developments. The collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War has also brought about a qualitative change which must have profound impact on our security concerns. The 'balance' between the two super powers acted as a counterpoise to threats to our own security, whether from China or from Pakistan. This balance has now disappeared, and to our detriment. Whatever one might like to think, power equations in the foreseeable future will be dominated by the only real power, the USA.

The Americans do not believe in free lunches. They want return on investment. To think that we can get anything substantial from them without signing the NPT [Nuclear Proliferation Treaty] or conforming to Dunkel, or adhering to intellectual property rights is living in a dream world. Geopolitically also, India is not of great importance to the Americans. So there is no reason to expect that the USA would need us as partners when it comes to furthering its own interests, as it did Pakistan, in the earlier years. [sentence as published] The American psyche places great store by allies, and Pakistan has been one.

Between India and Pakistan, the USA is, therefore, unlikely to stand up and be counted on our side when it comes to the crunch, notwithstanding the pressures that it may seem to be mounting on that country. However, the Americans have no real reason to seek an adversarial relationship with India so long as we are seen to be generally adhering to their norms. As a friendly country, we can be of help in supporting some of their interests in this area and take on tasks for which they would otherwise need to deploy their own resources. As a regional power with viable naval capability, we can also act as a counter to the growing might of Iran, something which the Americans would like. Whilst the joint Indo-US Naval exercises held in May should not be made much of, the Americans have something to gain from our naval capability which alone has reach and visibility beyond our own shores.

On a different plane, our maritime interests and responsibilities are increasing rapidly, be they in terms of growing needs of oil, seaborne commerce, exploitation of offshore resources or the security of our vast Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ]. Safeguarding the territorial integrity of a two million sq km. EEZ is far more difficult than the protection of our land frontiers. In the latter case, the intruders can be more easily countered as the frontiers are well-defined and guarded. At sea this is not so. The 'enemy' can be anywhere and is difficult to locate and to neutralise. To this must be added his ability to encroach upon our economic resources even in peacetime. He can be prevented from doing so only if we are seen to have a strong and deterrent capability.

In brief, the security scenario continues to remain supportive of the need for strong Naval capability. Geopolitical changes of the last two years have affected our security concerns adversely. Our economic constraints have also left us exposed to pressures from vested interests. Our shared concerns with the USA regarding Islamic fundamentalism notwithstanding, there is no strategic commonality of interest between the two countries and it is unlikely that anyone will stand guarantee for our security when it is actually threatened. So we have to be on guard and be prepared.

An important responsibility which a large country like India cannot evade is to be able to come to the assistance of our neighbours. We had to do this in Sri Lanka in 1971 and again in 1987. Operation Cactus, which prevented overthrow of the legitimate Government in the Maldives in 1988, is yet another instance. Such situations cannot be ruled out in future for which again we may have to improve our seaborne capability. If we cannot provide this, it would have to come from extra regional sources. This is not consistent with our strategic interests.

Fortunately, the gestation period in Naval growth is of the order of 8 to 10 years. This means that expenditures can be spread over two plans periods and heavy investments in financial resources are not required immediately or in bulk. This makes it possible to plan for growth

even in the present climate of financial constraints. What is necessary is that the conceptual decisions and policy directions are clear so that work may be initiated, to bear fruit a decade from now. India is too big a country to be dependent for its security on others, howsoever friendly. Besides, friendships are transitory and temperamental.

The seas are going to play an increasingly meaningful role in our affairs and we cannot wish this away. Not to be prepared for it would be foolhardy. Our vision should be clear—India needs a strong and credible Navy. What this means in terms of types and numbers of ships, submarines, aircraft and various force multipliers is a subject which merits separate discussion.

Party Advocates Self-Determination for Tamils

BK2809072192 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 92 p 7

[Text] Madras, Sept. 14—The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), on the concluding day of its three-day conference on the "Tamils right to live" today in its resolution urged the Centre to constitute a new constituent assembly for incorporating the right to self-determination in the new Constitution.

The conference ended in the early hours of today with a public meeting at the Marina. Former Prime Minister V. P. Singh, senior Janata Dal leader Ram Vilas Pawan, PMK founder president S. Ramdas and another PMK leader S. Ramachandran, besides others, addressed the meeting.

The PMK took out a massive rally in the city yesterday that took several hours to reach the Marina last night, virtually bringing the normal traffic to a standstill. Many processionists not only raised slogans demanding "right to live for the Tamils", but some of them also carried posters of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The PMK was critical of the Centre and the State Government for their failure to evolve a proper policy on the Sri Lankan Tamils and for "forcible repatriation" of the Tamil refugees. Its resolutions also criticised the "genocide" of the Tamils in Sri Lanka by that country's security forces and also the continued Sinhalese "colonisation" of the Tamil areas. The party demanded that the Government should come out with a proper policy on Sri Lankan Tamils and recognise the "Tamil Eelam".

The PMK also wanted the people's aspirations to be fulfilled and stated that there could not be an unity by "overstepping" the people's aspirations. The party's resolution sought the constitution of a constituent assembly for drafting a new constitution incorporating the right to self-determination for the people.

The party was sore that the Tamils were treated with "scant respect"—whether it was the Cauvery river water, or Kachchathivu or Rameswaram fishermen issues. The Centre and the State were "indifferent" to these problems and therefore the Tamils right to live remained a "question mark".

On the conclusion of the conference, party's founder president Dr S. Ramdas stated that his party wanted the Tamils to live with self-respect. Referring to the Cauvery water issue, he said the Centre and the Karnataka Government were indifferent to the issue.

He alleged Hindi language being forced on the Tamils through radio and TV programmes. He warned that if these programmes were not transmitted in Tamil by January, the PMK would launch an agitation. He also said he followed the Janata Dal on the Mandal issue only.

The PMK's lone legislator, Panruti S. Ramachandran, stated that his party wanted the Government to recognise "Tamil Eelam" as the whole world had accepted it. He also sought to draw a parallel with the erstwhile USSR from which 15 countries have seceded. He said, "What we seek is equality for all the people. Law is for the people and people are not for the law". He wanted the drafting of the new Constitution to fulfill the aspirations of the people.

Former Prime Minister V.P. Singh, who addressed the public meetings, called for a debate on the Sarkaria Commission report by the Inter-State Council [sentence as published]. He said he was for more powers to State Government. He reiterated his demand for equality to the depressed sections by fighting against social, economic and political monopolies. "We want a change in country's politics, and a new social order, and not a mere change of Governments" he added.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Party of India founder L. Elayaperumal condemned the PMK for supporting the LTTE, which he said, was behind the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Congress MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] Polur Varadhan has in a statement condemned the PMK for raising pro-LTTE slogans and carrying posters of the LTTE chief Prabhakaran. He also criticised the PMK for raising provocative slogans against the Congress and throwing stones at the Congress building at Teynampet which resulted in injuries to Mr P. Govindaswamy, vice president of the South Madras District Congress Committee.

Iran

Yazdi Comments on Abu Musa Talks, News Media

LD2809172292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] During today's meeting of Judiciary Branch officials, Judiciary Branch chief Yazdi praised the people involved in commemorating holy Defense Week and expressed hope that the country's people and officials

will do everything in their power to protect and preserve the achievements of the selfless combatants and precious martyrs of the revolution.

Referring to the good atmosphere in the talks between Iranian and UAE [United Arab Emirates] officials aimed at peacefully resolving existing differences, Yazdi said: The enemies of Islam must have understood this obvious fact by now. They will never be able to fulfill their illegitimate interests in the region by sowing discord between Islamic countries. He added: Our country's authorities will without doubt confront any conspiracy and provocation with intelligence, wise, and long-term thinking; they will thwart the enemies' arrogant aims.

Yazdi then spoke of a recent trial conducted based on the press law and in the presence of a jury. He drew the attention of some news media—which had adopted an unsuitable approach over describing and explaining this trial—to the fact that respecting the law is a duty all of us, especially people involved in news affairs, must abide by and pay particular attention to.

Yazdi stated that in Iran's judicial system, economic, factional, and group affiliations are not considered to be offenses, and he condemned the propaganda against Iran in this connection as hollow, baseless, and biased.

Daily Says Gulf Region Needs 'Understanding'

LD2909091192 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday stressed that the Persian Gulf region needed tranquility, understanding and peaceful co-existence.

'JOMHURI ESLAMI' in an editorial on the outcome of Tehran-Abu Dhabi talks over the issue of the Iranian island of Abu Musa, noted that peace would prevail only if regional governments adopt a sincere stance, make independent decisions and abide by their undertakings.

It underlined the two countries' intention to follow up the talks with good-will and understanding but said that such a positive move should be manifested in the outcome of the talks as well.

Although from the very beginning the talks were expected to only cover Abu Musa, apparently some foreign media are viciously trying to disturb the situation by spreading the issue to the other two Iranian islands, Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek, wrote the article.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has emphatically said that its policy has not changed in this connection and that the delegation to the talks is only commissioned to hold negotiations within the framework of Abu Musa," added the daily.

It assured that the UAE statesmen were fully aware of the objectives behind instigations of the aliens and had realized that they should not be deceived by their vicious propaganda.

The paper advised the Persian Gulf littoral states to show their good-will in practice and witness Iran's good-intention in return, noting that when officials of the littoral states met with Iranian officials they spoke of understanding and cooperation but adopted a different stand in private.

Afghan President Arrives for Visit 27 Sep

LD2709155192 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Afghan interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani today, heading a high ranking eco-political delegation, arrived here and was welcomed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

On the goal behind his visit to Tehran, Rabbani told reporters that Iran firmly stood beside the Afghan Government during Afghan jihad and its difficult days and supported the mojahedin. "Now too during the reconstruction era, we see Iran beside us."

He added that during his stay here he will exchange views with the Iranian leaders on the issues of mutual interest.

Terming the outcome of his trip to Pakistan and talks with that country's officials as "positive", the Afghan president said that Pakistan was one of Afghanistan's neighbors and helped it greatly during its liberation struggle.

Asked whether certain Pakistani wings supported Islamic Party leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, Rabbani said the Pakistan president and premier in their meetings with Afghan officials had emphasized that they would never allow their territory be turned into a base for "adventurous and anti-government Afghan elements" and that they solely recognized the Afghan Islamic government.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking to reporters, said that political, international, economic issues as well as Afghanistan's reconstruction and administration were among the topics to be discussed by the two sides based on their experiences.

He emphasized that Iran will try to help the Afghans to restore a normal condition to their country so that the Iran and Pakistan based Afghan refugees would return to their homeland.

Blames Foreign Countries for Clashes

LD2809231492 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—President of the Afghan interim Government Borhanoddin Rabbani said here today that current internal difficulties in Afghanistan arise from the "thirst for power" by some parties, which he did not name.

Rabbani, during his meeting with Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, said relative security has been restored in Kabul, but regretted that the recent clashes have resulted in massive destructions in Kabul.

He held aid by foreign countries responsible for the internal clashes in Afghanistan without referring to the name of a certain country.

Nateq-Nuri in reply expressed hope that the issue of Afghanistan would be settled through restoration of tranquility in the country. He recommended free elections with the participation of all Mojahedin groups which had a share in the struggles against the former regime in Afghanistan.

He promised that Iran would continue its support for Afghanistan.

Rabbani, heading a delegation, arrived here Sunday and held talks with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night. He also paid tribute to the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, by attending his shrine and laying a wreath of flowers on his tomb this morning.

Calls on Envoys To Return to Kabul

LD2909000492 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—Interim President of Afghanistan Borhanoddin Rabbani here today called on foreign ambassadors who had departed Kabul to return to the city.

Rabbani, who was talking in a meeting with foreign ambassadors in Tehran, also called on the countries that have not yet reopened their embassies in Kabul to do so at their earliest.

He said the government in Afghanistan is now passing through a transitional period and needs time in order to guarantee security at home. He expressed confidence that the government in that country would control problems.

Rabbani said all nationalities and political and jihad parties have their own share in the government of that country. He added that the civil war in Afghanistan is due to the "selfishness of only one person who has been blamed by all people."

The interim president of Afghanistan said the Afghan Government respects all nations and that it is committed to a policy of non- interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and to the charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

He said no country would be allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He added after the interim period a council of commanders and reputed personalities would be held in Afghanistan who will decide on the future of the country.

Rabbani noted that the people of Afghanistan are struggling with insufficient facilities, food and fuel and called for immediate international aid to Afghanistan.

Meets With Ahmad Khomeyni

LD2809133992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Visiting Afghan President Rabbani and delegation visited the resting place of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise, and laid a wreath as a sign of respect to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning.

He then met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and conveyed the Afghan nation's gratitude for Iran's unstinting assistance. Referring to the deep links between both countries, he said: The ties between Iran and Afghanistan go deeper than normal relations between any two countries. Not only did our Iranian brothers stand by the Afghan nation during the difficult times until victory, they also did everything in their power to help Afghanistan in the present circumstances. We will never forget Iran's assistance, and we hope we will put the current difficult times behind us in the best possible way.

Ahmad Khomeyni then expressed pleasure about Rabbani and delegation's visit to Tehran and, noting the deep cultural and religious bonds between Iran and Afghanistan, added: The shared features between the two countries provide an excellent background for expanding ties. We hope that the Afghan nation will use all its resources to reconstruct its country in a climate of understanding and brotherhood and avoiding selfish and factional interests. Only the enemies of Afghanistan stand to gain from the intensification of disputes.

Ahmad Khomeyni also said that it is incumbent on all mojahedin groups to support the Afghan Government and added: People who oppose the Afghan Government are, in fact, enemies of the Afghan nation.

At the end of the meeting, Rabbani signed the memorial book of the blessed resting place of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise.

Commentary Views Rabbani's Visit

LD2809162292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Borhanoddin Rabbani, the interim Afghan president and chairman of the Leadership Council, has been in Iran since yesterday on an official visit. During his visit, he will hold talks with senior officials of our country, including Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and will discuss various issues, to include bilateral relations and

greater cooperation between Tehran and Kabul toward solving the current Afghan problems.

Despite suspicious efforts aimed at straining relation between the two countries, the relations between the two Muslim countries, following the coming to power of the mojahedin, has continuously developed and increased. The areas of bilateral cooperation in all fields has increased significantly.

During and after the 14-year holy war, Iran has continued supplying the necessary help and cooperation to the Muslim nation of Afghanistan and has moved alongside the mojahedin. Without a doubt, our country is able to provide its valuable experience, particularly in reconstruction, to the Afghan brothers.

Rabbani's visit occurs at a time when this country is going through a sensitive phase where, due to recent clashes in Kabul, the Muslim people of that country are not in an ideal situation. The recent unrest has to a great extent placed the country on the threshold of complex economic and security problems. Now, the officials of the interim Afghan Government can use the cooperation of friendly and neighboring countries, particularly Iran—as repeatedly emphasized by the senior Iranian officials—toward solving those problems.

The lack of interest of foreign hegemonist powers in establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan has made cooperation between the countries of the region necessary. In fact, recent contacts between officials from Islamabad and Tehran to help the Afghan brothers is a positive step in this regard. There is no doubt that both Iran and Pakistan are sensitive to developments in Afghanistan, and it is natural that this sensitivity could be a significant element in preventing any foreign interference in the internal affairs of this country.

Today, the idea of holding a regional conference with the participation of Afghanistan's friends and neighbors is under consideration in the region's political circles. There is no doubt that the stability of nondiscriminative political power in Kabul and establishing security and general disarmament—as well as reconstructing war damage—will move Afghanistan toward peace and tranquillity. During Rabbani's visit, with members of the Leadership Council, ministers, as well as political, economic, and judicial officials present, it is expected that the preliminary basic agreements on cultural, political, and economic matters will be finalized. In this manner, it is hoped that Rabbani's trip to Tehran, the first after assuming power, will be the beginning of a new phase of expanding bilateral relations.

Rabbani Urged To Seek Government's Help

LD2809110892 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—A Persian daily Monday recommended to the Afghan interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani to utilise Iran's positive and constructive role in settling his country's economic and political problems. Rabbani arrived here Sunday heading a ranking delegation on a 3-day official visit.

The morning daily 'SALAM' criticised Afghan groups for failing to reach a political understanding saying that the role of foreign governments should not be ignored in escalation of the crisis there. It claimed that a faction of the Pakistani government and also the Saudi government have constantly tried to impose their own "hegemony" on Afghanistan through their agents.

However, it said, Islamabad's policy in arming the party has been criticised by the domestic circles and the Pakistanis have reportedly decided to discontinue their assistance to Golboddin Hekmatyar and his Islamic party.

The daily underlined the important role the neighboring countries can play in helping materialise peace and stability in the war-torn country and said that Rabbani should take the opportunity for founding consolidated ties with Tehran and utilise Iran's positive and constructive role in solving its politico-economic problems.

During the first round of talks with Rabbani here on Sunday, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed promotion of Tehran- Kabul ties and Iran's contribution in reconstruction of the country.

He also voiced Iran's readiness to offer its experience in reconstruction projects to Afghanistan including health, road building, bridge building, the development of border markets and establishment of air lines and printing of banknotes to Afghanistan.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 27 Sep

LD2709172992 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Prov., Sept. 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov arrived here through the border town of Bajgiran Saturday night, and proceeded to Tehran shortly after arrival.

He said during his stay in Tehran he would follow-up talks with the Iranian officials for the scheduled opening in Tashkent of the Iranian Embassy. He is also carrying a message from the Uzbek president, Islam Karimov, to Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Uzbek official said since its independence in 1991 some 120 world governments have recognized his republic. He said the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Muslim countries of Asia is a priority for the Uzbek Government.

Abdurazzaqov said the Uzbek President had reviewed a project for building a railroad for connecting the Iranian city of Mashhad to Tajan whereby Iran and Uzbekistan

would be linked by railway. The Government of Uzbekistan, he said, had every technical capacity to contribute to the project.

During his three-day stay in Tehran the Uzbek minister is to review Iran-Uzbekistan relations as well as the upcoming visit to Tehran of the Uzbek president.

Speaks of Broadening Relations

LD2709180992 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov, who met with Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Sunday, said that his government looks forward to broadening relations with Iran in diplomatic, cultural and economic areas.

He also expressed confidence that during his scheduled visit to Tehran, the Uzbek President Islam Karimov would reach agreements with Iran on economic areas as well as on exchange of news and regional cooperation.

Besharati told the visiting Uzbek official that Iran is committed to broadening relations with the newly independent republics in Central Asia. He also intimated Iran's readiness to offer training to the oil industry personnel of Uzbekistan.

The foreign minister of Uzbekistan, who arrived in Iran Saturday, is carrying a message to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from the Uzbek president.

Meets With Nateq-Nuri

LD2809224992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] During a meeting with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri in Tehran on Monday afternoon, Uzbek Foreign Minister Mr. Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov stressed his country's readiness to increase cooperation with Iran. He said: Preserving beliefs and national values in our country during the communist era was a great achievement that will result in greater cooperation with Iran.

Referring to the creation of the opportunity for more contact and familiarization among Central Asian nations, Nateq-Nuri stressed Iran's policy concerning true independence, growth, and developing those countries.

Velayati Returns From UNGA Session

NC2909090492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who went to New York to attend the 47th UN General Assembly [UNGA], returned to Tehran last night. During his stay in New York, Velayati met the heads and foreign ministers of 50 countries and discussed bilateral relations and regional and international cooperation. He also attended the extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers and explained the Islamic Republic's views on problems in the Islamic world.

Returning to Tehran, Velayati commented about the discussions at the 47th UNGA and told our correspondents: Some 179 countries attended this year's session, including several newly independent countries, those of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The most important topics on the UNGA's agenda were discussions on the future structure of the organization and its duties and a study of requests by some countries, such as Germany, for permanent membership in the Security Council.

Velayati added that the UN secretary general has prepared a draft proposal for world peace and its preservation, which has been published in the United Nations and has been included on the session's agenda.

[Begin Velayati recording] If the United Nations approves this draft proposal in its present form or with minor changes, it will greatly develop international concepts, that of country, nation, the right of nations, countries' domestic affairs and national rights, the extent of international forums authority, primarily that of the United Nations, and the extent to which these forums can or cannot interfere in countries' domestic affairs. It will be the basis of extremely complicated and extensive discussions. [end recording]

'Thaw' in Relations with Turkey Urged

NC2809085992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Let Us Hope it Succeeds in Practice"]

[Text] At the end of his four-day visit to Iran, the Turkish Interior Minister, Ismet Sezgin, was seen off by his Iranian counterpart, 'Abdollah Nuri, as he left Iran for Turkey. During his stay in Iran, the Turkish Interior Minister had talks with the Iranian officials, and inked a political-economic-commercial agreement.

It has to be confessed that not much hope had been pinned on Ismet Sezgin's visit when he arrived in Tehran, and the local press in particular portrayed a very pessimistic outlook for the result of the negotiations.

But fortunately it seems that the negotiations have been conducted in a friendly atmosphere, and agreements on basic issues have apparently been reached. This is, in fact, far beyond what had been anticipated before Mr. Sezgin's arrival.

For the moment, Tehran is only concerned on how the terms of the agreement will be carried out. For instance, each country has agreed not to allow the other country's

opposition groups to operate in their territories; it now remains to be seen whether this agreement will be observed in practice.

Iran never approved the disintegration of any country in the region, and it does not intend to give support to any separatist group. Conversely Turkey has to prevent the activities of the terrorist groups who are plotting against Iran from inside the Turkish territory.

It has to be borne in mind that unfriendly relations between Iran and Turkey will not only endanger their bilateral ties, but will also face the entire ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] with serious difficulties, as Iran, because of its geographical location, performs the role of the connecting link between Turkey and the other ECO members. On the other hand for many years Turkey has linked Iran to Europe for land transportation. However, the difficulties created in relation to the transport of Iranian goods through Turkey—such as what happened to the Cape Maleas freighter—forced Iran to consider an alternative route to Europe through Bulgarian and Azerbaijani or Armenian territories.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Sezgin's promise regarding the release of the Cape Maleas freighter will not be forgotten like the other promises made by other Turkish authorities. In fact the release of this ship will herald the beginning of thaw in the relations between the two countries which naturally should begin in the coming days.

President on International University Links

LD2909111392 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday underlined the necessity of establishing links between universities throughout the country and advanced universities of the world in order to take advantage of their facilities. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the new academic year for universities, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who also heads the High Cultural Revolution Council, pointed to priorities his government gives to expansion of universities and upgrading of educational standards.

He noted that the government was taking steps to pave the way for all qualified students to enter universities, adding that out of about 250,000 high school graduates some 220,000 were finding their way into institutes of higher education throughout the country each year. He also underlined the status of women, as half of the population, in the improvement of the society and noted that if measures are taken to facilitate women's higher education, in coming years when the country would experience a brisk era, women would play an outstanding role in the development of the country.

Meanwhile, Chancellor of the Tehran University Mohammad Rahimian in a report said that last year some 28,000 students had enrolled in 20 faculties and institutes of higher education of the university and that 45 research projects had been completed during the same period. Chancellor of the University of Medical Sciences Dr. Mohammad Hasan Bastan-Haq was another speaker who noted that in the past year over 11,000 students had attended the university at various medical levels.

Students Rally Against U.S. 'Cultural Invasion'

LD2909102992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Students of Tehran's universities this afternoon took part in a rally declaring their support for the remarks made by the leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] about combating America's cultural invasion and recent provocations in the Persian Gulf region.

In a resolution issued at the rally, referring to the Serbian acts of aggression—described as a manifestation of Western culture—all Muslims are called on to form an international Islamic army to defend the innocent Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina. In another part of the resolution the country's cultural and economic authorities are asked to follow the commands of the leader of the revolution and rely on Islamic values in the all-round battle against the Western cultural onslaught.

In the resolution the students state that the survival of the Islamic revolution and the attainment of the goals of the late leader of the Islamic revolution [Khomeyni] are dependent on following the wise commands and instructions of the leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. They call on all revolutionary and Hezbollahi forces to unite around the principle of the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih].

Army Commanders Cited on Forces' Capabilities

LD2809122592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] On the sixth day of holy Defense Week, Brigadier General Ebadat, the acting commander of the Army's ground forces, and Brigadier General Ansari, commander of Iran's Havaniruz [air units of the army's ground forces], took part in a news conference.

Ebadat said during the news conference that the Army is in control of the country's borders and that there is total security in the country. He explained: The ground forces and the Havaniruz are fully prepared to confront any event. He referred to the fact that the ground forces have thus far repaired and put back into operation 160,000 mechanical units and other engineering equipment, and he enumerated the following achievements of the ground forces: constructing canals in Dasht-e Chah Bahar; leveling land and constructing roads; removing rubble in Mehran; building dams and canals in Kordestan Province and eastern and western Azerbaijan. He added: Our

forces are ready to undertake difficult projects other contractors are not prepared to accept.

Ansari, commander of the Havaniruz, said for his part: The Havaniruz acts as a rapid reaction force. We carried out over 300,000 hours of work throughout various military operations in the course of eight years of holy defense. He added: The Havaniruz played an important role in taking relief assistance to war, quake and flood stricken areas. It has also done a great deal of work toward the suppression of bandits and drug smugglers in the country's different border areas.

The commander of the Havaniruz also said: At the moment, high level technical and flying courses currently take place within the country and we no longer need to send people abroad for training. He said in conclusion: At the moment, lightweight repairs and some heavy work on helicopters is also carried out within the country.

Pakistan

Bosnian President Visits 27-28 Sep, Holds Talks

Arrives 27 Sep

BK2709115692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] The president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, has said that right from the first day they announced their independence, they have had strong support from the Pakistan Government and the people. The Bosnian president was talking to newsmen on arrival at Islamabad Airport this afternoon on a two-day visit to Pakistan. He said, although located geographically distant from Pakistan, their people knew that they could rely on Pakistan in their struggle to protect their right to freedom and self defense.

Earlier, at the Lahore Airport, the Bosnian president said he came to Pakistan to express gratitude to the government and the people of this country for their support to his country in difficult time. He said his visit was also aimed at explaining to Pakistani friends the troubles and problems his country has been facing as a consequence of brutalization.

Talks With Nawaz Sharif

BK2709152092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has called on the international community to immediately provide emergency relief to save Bosnian Muslims who are being tortured to death in thousands. Speaking at a luncheon he hosted in honor of the visiting Bosnian president, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, he said it is imperative that an emergency action on a scale that responds to the situation be undertaken without any further delay. He said the immediate requirements of Bosnia are within the capability of the international community.

President Izetbegovic said the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina had high hopes from the government and people of Pakistan. Bosnians are convinced that they can rely on the help and personal interest which the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has shown in bringing their cause to the attention of the world community and the material assistance offered to them in their hour of misery. About the situation in Bosnia, he said houses and civic amenities have been destroyed, heating facilities and energy are under short supply, and there is a dire need for articles of daily use. The coming winter will increase their sufferings.

Talks between the visiting president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, were held in Islamabad today. The prime minister expressed his deep concern and anguish at the continued Serbia-led aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia- Hercegovina and the sufferings of Bosnian Muslims. He said it is unfortunate that the blatant aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina continues despite a clear condemnation by the international community. The prime minister assured President Alija Izetbegovic that Pakistan will continue to support strong action by all international fora for restoration of peace and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif reiterated the call for military action under the UN Charter for reversal of aggression and restoration of Bosnia's sovereignty. There should be explicit acceptance of Bosnia's right to individual and collective self-defense as recognized under Article 51 of the UN Charter. The prime minister called for lifting of arms embargo against Bosnia. The prime minister also welcomed the decision of the government of Bosnia to open its mission in Pakistan. President Alija Izetbegovic thanked the prime minister for political and humanitarian support Pakistan has extended to his people and country.

Earlier, the president of Bosnia-Hercegovina was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad today on a two-day official visit to Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic said Muslim countries are duty bound to support the freedom and the right of self-defense of Bosnian people. He expressed his gratitude to the people and government of Pakistan for providing strong support to the Bosnian cause.

[Begin Izetbegovic recording] [words indistinct] a strong support from the Pakistani Government and the Pakistani people to save us. Although we are [at] very distant, our people know very well about the support of Pakistani people and the Pakistani Government. And we are very thankful for that. And I had to [word indistinct] express

not my thankfulness for that but also express (?just now) our sympathy, our deep sympathy for the troubles in which Pakistan (?is now) passing because of the floods. [end recording]

In reply to a question about Mr. Cyrus Vance's mission, he said he is hopeful about the mission although there is not enough substance to keep such a hope.

Khan Assures Full Support

BK2809045592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has reiterated Pakistan's stand on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and called for respect for that country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the immediate reversal of aggression, the cessation of hostilities, and an end to the massive violation of human rights there. Speaking at a banquet hosted by him in Islamabad last night in honor of visiting Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Ghulam Ishaq Khan stressed the need for preserving the identity of Bosnia-Hercegovina as a multi- ethnic state in which all communities enjoy full religious, cultural, and human rights. He assured Pakistan's continued support to Bosnia-Hercegovina at the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and the Nonaligned Movement and called upon the international community to openly and decisively support justice and humanity. The president said it is a matter of great shame that the world has been apathetically and helplessly standing by as brutalities and barbaric acts are committed against unarmed civilians.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed support for Bosnia-Hercegovina's call for revising UN restrictions on the supply of arms to Bosnia, because there is no justification for treating the oppressor and the oppressed equally. He said the treatment meted out by Serbia to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina has made it crystal clear how Serbia will deal with other areas of former Yugoslavia, like Kosovo and [word indistinct]. In spite of being a developing country, Pakistan considers it its duty to continue to provide every possible assistance to Bosnia in the future as well. The president said he is confident that President Alija Izetbegovic's current visit will help lay a solid foundation for sincere and cordial bilateral relations.

President Alija Izetbegovic thanked the government and the people of Pakistan for extending wholehearted support and assistance to his country in its hour of need. He said Bosnia is particularly grateful to Pakistan because Islamabad is extending assistance to the Bosnian people at a time when it has itself been affected by devastating floods. Pakistan has all along been a source of inspiration for the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina to achieve independence. He called upon the United Nations, Europe, and the ICO to extend full and wholehearted support to the people of Bosnia- Hercegovina so it can defend its independence, because that country is a member of the international community and a part of Europe and the Islamic community. The Bosnian president extended his country's full support to Pakistan in regard to Kashmir and said the problem must be resolved on the basis of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

Izetbegovic Departs 28 Sep

BK2809064392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] The president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, was given a warm send-off when he left Islamabad this morning for Geneva, concluding a two-day visit to Pakistan. Acting President Wasim Sajjad and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif bade him farewell. Others present at the airport to see off the distinguished guest included the deputy chairperson of the Senate, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly, federal ministers, elected representatives, and diplomats. The farewell ceremony included a guard of honor by a contingent of the three services and a 21-gun salute.

President Ishaq Khan Leaves for Turkey 28 Sep

BK2809064592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan left Islamabad this morning for Ankara on a five-day state visit to Turkey. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan, the deputy chairperson of the Senate, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly, federal ministers, elected representatives, and diplomats. The president is accompanied by Federal Information Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika, Defense Production Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, and Commerce Minister Malik Naim Khan.